# HAWAII-CALIFORNIA TRAINING AND TESTING

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/ December 2024 ID# EISX-007-17-USN-1724283453











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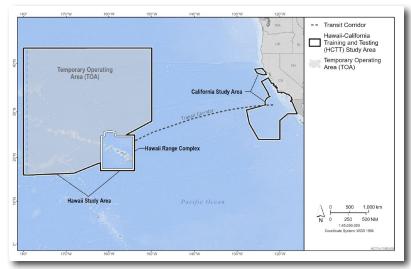


Figure 1. The Hawaii-California Training and Testing Study Area.

# Introduction

Military personnel must be ready to respond to any situation that may arise, ranging from engaging in large-scale conflict, to providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, to conducting maritime security operations (e.g., protecting international shipping, deterring piracy, providing port and harbor security, fighting drug smuggling). The success and safety of service members is contingent upon realistic training using evolving technology that prepares them to respond to an urgent situation or an act of aggression at a moment's notice. Maintaining rigorous, comprehensive training regimens ensures aircraft, vessels, and equipment are ready to deploy and military personnel are prepared to carry out their duties as required.

Military research, development, testing, and evaluation (referred to as "testing") activities are also critical for maintaining readiness. The Department of Defense continually researches and develops new technologies to ensure the U.S. military remains the most capable in the world. These technologies must be tested and evaluated before military personnel can rely on them in real-world situations.

To meet training and testing requirements, the Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), as the lead agency, jointly with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, and U.S. Air Force, has prepared the Hawaii-California Training and Testing (HCTT) Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Draft EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of the potential environmental effects associated with conducting at-sea training and testing activities, and modernization and sustainment of ranges (collectively referred to as "military readiness activities") within the HCTT Study Area (Figure 1).

# Importance of **At-Sea Training**

Seventy percent of the earth is covered in water, 80% of the planet's population lives in proximity to coastal areas, and 90% of global commerce is conducted by sea. The priorities of the Department of the Navy and other Service Components are to maintain open navigable seas, provide world-wide humanitarian support in crises, deter aggression, and win decisively in war. To achieve these goals, the military services must train service members in realistic environments to be ready to defend the United States and its territories, allies, and interests.

# Importance of **At-Sea Testing**

The U.S. military services' research, acquisition, and testing community includes research organizations, laboratories, and testing centers. This community researches, develops, acquires, and evaluates weapons, systems, manned and unmanned aircraft. surface ships, submarines, unmanned underwater vehicles, and other specialized technologies which give the U.S. military services a technological advantage over potential adversaries.



# Hawaii-California Training and Testing Study Area

The HCTT Study Area consists primarily of the Hawaii Study Area, the California Study Area, and the transit corridor connecting the two (Figure 1). The Study Area includes the at-sea components of the range complexes (Hawaii Range Complex, Southern California [SOCAL] Range Complex, Point Mugu Sea Range [PMSR], and Northern California [NOCAL] Range Complex), Navy pierside locations and port transit channels, bays, harbors, inshore waterways, amphibious approach lanes, and civilian ports where training and testing activities occur. For this EIS/OEIS, "at-sea components" include the marine environment around San Nicolas Island in Southern California and the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii where marine mammals (e.g., California sea lion, harbor seal, northern elephant seal, Hawaiian monk seal) haul out on the shoreline. Noise from missile and target launches and artillery firing from these two locations are analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS to estimate potential effects on hauled-out pinnipeds.

Training and testing activities conducted in the HCTT Study Area were last analyzed in the 2018 Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) EIS/OEIS ("Phase III" analysis) and the 2022 PMSR EIS/OEIS. The HCTT Study Area for this "Phase IV" analysis differs from the 2018 HSTT Study Area ("Phase III" analysis) in that it includes (Figures 2 and 3):

- An expanded SOCAL Range Complex
- Special use airspace (Proposed Warning Area [W]-293 and Proposed W-294) corresponding to the expanded SOCAL Range Complex
- New testing sea space between Proposed W-293 and PMSR
- Two existing training and testing at-sea ranges, the PMSR and NOCAL Range Complex
- · Areas along the Southern California coastline from approximately Dana Point to Port Hueneme
- · Four amphibious approach lanes providing land access from the NOCAL Range Complex and PMSR

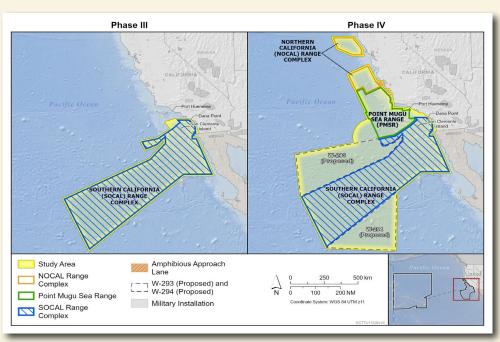
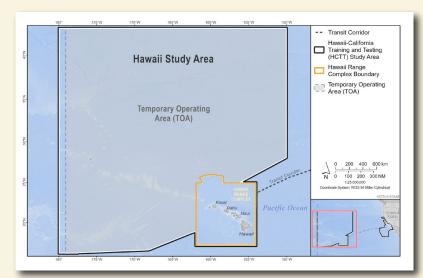


Figure 2. Areas outlined in yellow show the changes to the California Study Area from the 2018 HSTT Study Area (Phase III analysis) to the HCTT Study Area (Phase IV analysis).



The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS/OEIS. The military services are seeking the issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) to support at-sea military readiness activities within the Study Area, beginning in December 2025. In the rule-making process, NMFS will consider the potential effects of the Proposed Action on the marine environment. The EIS/OEIS will support NMFS' rule-making process to issue MMPA authorizations.



**Figure 3.** While the overall boundaries of the Hawaii Study Area have not changed from the 2018 analysis, nearshore areas, such as Kaneohe Bay or Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, are proposed to be used more frequently or for new training or testing activities, such as mine warfare training.





# **Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea military readiness activities, comprised of training, testing, and modernization and sustainment of ranges, in the Study Area. Training and testing activities that include the use of active sonar, explosives, or other sources of underwater sound would employ mitigation measures intended to reduce or avoid adverse effects on marine species. Proposed activities are similar to those analyzed in the 2018 HSTT EIS/OEIS and the at-sea activities in the 2022 PMSR EIS/OEIS and are consistent with activities conducted off Hawaii and California for more than 80 years. Proposed range modernization and sustainment activities include:

- New special use airspace in Southern California to provide the Navy with air maneuver space for real-world, advanced training with manned and unmanned systems.
- Upgrades to the existing Southern California Offshore Anti-Submarine Range (SOAR), a deep-water instrumented area, by installing new hydrophones and undersea cables.
   Maintenance is needed to sustain the range's capabilities.
- Installation and maintenance of two new shallow-water training ranges as extensions to the SOAR.
- Sustainment of the Barking Sands Tactical Underwater Range and Barking Sands Underwater Range Expansion at Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.
- Deployment of seafloor cables and connected instrumentation in Southern California and Hawaii.
- Installation and maintenance of mine warfare and other training areas, which would include installation, removal, and replacement of mine countermeasure targets (non-explosive) offshore of Hawaii and Southern California. Other temporary training areas may be established by installing and later retrieving instrumentation, such as hydrophones anchored to the seafloor and targets placed on the seafloor.
- Installation and maintenance of underwater platforms used for underwater vehicle pilot proficiency training in Hawaii and Southern California.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea military readiness activities in the HCTT Study Area to ensure the U.S. military services are able to organize, train, and equip service members and personnel to meet their respective national defense missions. The development of the EIS/OEIS will help the Navy and other U.S. military services meet their environmental compliance requirements while ensuring military readiness by:

- Supporting current and future training and testing requirements
- Allowing training and testing over greater distances, as larger areas are needed to train and test with new weapons required for countering new threats
- Supporting increased training with unmanned systems
- Increasing flexibility in conducting training and testing activities
- Supporting modernizing and sustaining range capabilities
- Updating environmental analyses using the best available science and analytical methods
- Supporting MMPA and ESA consultations for the reissuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations within the Study Area

# **Alternatives Analyzed**

The Draft EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of a No Action Alternative and two action alternatives:

- No Action Alternative: At-sea military readiness activities would not be conducted; this alternative does not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and MMPA permits would not be reissued by NMFS.
- Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative and Environmentally Preferred Action Alternative): At-sea training, testing, and range modernization and sustainment activities would be conducted into the reasonably foreseeable future. This alternative reflects a representative level of annual activities to account for natural fluctuations in training and testing schedules.
- Alternative 2: Includes at-sea training, testing, and range modernization and sustainment activities, but assumes a maximum number of activities occurring in a given year and assumes that the maximum level would occur every year over any seven-year period.



# Military Readiness Activities

Alternative 1
is identified as
the military services
Preferred Alternative to
meet the purpose of and need
for the Proposed Action. It is also
the Environmentally Preferred
Action Alternative because it
has a lower level of activities
compared to Alternative 2, and
therefore has fewer effects
on certain resources.

At-sea military readiness activities must be as realistic as possible to provide the military services with the experience necessary for success and survival in the air and on the open ocean.

Military readiness is enhanced when U.S. forces train jointly to improve communication, coordination, and cooperation in real-world environments. The Navy's training range complexes provide these realistic environments, with the land, airspace, sea surface space, and undersea space necessary for mission success and public safety.

#### Training and Testing with Sonar

Adversaries of the United States have and continue to acquire modern, quiet submarines that can pose serious threats to national security, the safety of military forces, and the nation's economy. Sonar proficiency is complex and requires regular, hands-on training in realistic and diverse conditions. Lack of realistic training jeopardizes the lives of military personnel serving in dangerous waters as well as in actual

combat situations. The military services use simulators for some types of training; however, simulators cannot completely replace training and testing in a realistic environment. Active sonar is the most effective method of detecting, identifying, and tracking underwater threats, including quiet submarines and in-water mines.

## Training and Testing with Explosives

Training and testing at sea with live ordnance (explosives) significantly enhances the safety of U.S. forces in combat and improves readiness and equipment reliability. Most training and testing activities conducted in the Study Area use inert or non-explosive ordnance. However, military personnel must also train in a variety of high-stress environments, including scenarios that involve the use of and exposure to explosive ordnance, to be ready to respond to emergencies and national security threats. The military services, in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration, issue notices to mariners and aviators to ensure public safety. Safety buffers are also established around at-sea activity areas when explosives are in use.

The military services understand the concerns of commercial and sport anglers, maritime businesses, and marine recreationists about military readiness activities at sea and train and conduct tests in a manner that is compatible with civilian activities.

# Summary of the Environmental Analysis

The Draft EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of at-sea military readiness activities using new information, including an updated acoustic analysis, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. For more detailed information on potential environmental effects, please refer to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Draft EIS/OEIS is available online for download or in print at the public libraries listed on the project website at www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/.

#### Resources Evaluated

The military services evaluated the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects the Proposed Action may have on the human, natural, and cultural environments, including:

- Air quality and climate change
- Sediments and water quality
- Vegetation
- Invertebrates

- Habitats
- Fishes
- Marine mammals
- Reptiles

- Birds
- Cultural resources
- · Socioeconomics and environmental justice
- Public health and safety

Cumulative effects were considered for all resource areas. Cumulative effects are the effects on the environment resulting from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. While a single project may have minor effects, overall effects may be significant when the project is considered collectively with other projects on a regional scale.

The Draft EIS/OEIS also includes an analysis of measures that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects potentially resulting from at-sea military readiness activities.

#### Air Quality and Climate Change

Emissions of air pollutants would not violate national or state ambient air quality standards. The Proposed Action may result in a negligible effect on air quality from hazardous air pollutants, primarily in areas not accessible to the public. Along with emissions from other sources, greenhouse gas emissions generated by military readiness activities would contribute incrementally to climate change.

#### **Sediments and Water Quality**

Explosives and their byproducts may result in minor, localized effects on sediment and water quality, but would not result in harmful effects on biological resources or habitats.

#### Vegetation

Proposed military readiness activities may affect vegetation in close proximity of the activity but would not result in persistent or large-scale effects on the growth, survival, distribution, or structure of vegetation, primarily due to the avoidance of sensitive habitats (e.g., hard bottom/seaweed habitat, seagrass beds).

#### **Invertebrates**

The number of individual invertebrates potentially affected by military readiness activities would be small relative to population numbers. Therefore, population-level effects are unlikely. Most military expended materials are too large to be ingested by invertebrates; therefore, ingestion would be infrequent.



#### **Habitats**

The surface area of bottom substrate affected over the short-term by military activities would be a tiny fraction of the total Study Area. Seafloor devices are typically placed only in areas that would result in minor and temporary effects on the bottom substrate. The essential features of ESA-critical habitats, such as that for Hawaiian monk seals, are not expected to experience adverse effects.



#### **Fishes**

Behavioral effects from most activities are expected to be temporary and minor. Most fishes are mobile and have sensory capabilities that enable them to detect and avoid vessels, other items, and entanglement; therefore, behavioral and stress responses from these stressors would be temporary. Although some individuals may be injured or killed during sound-producing activities (e.g., those using explosives), population-level effects are unlikely.

#### **Marine Mammals**

Marine mammals in most stocks would be affected by exposure to sonar, explosives, and other sound-producing activities no more than a few times per year. Most effects would be short-term changes in behavior, such as avoidance, or temporary effects on hearing. Although the Navy implements mitigation measures, including activity-based mitigations, injuries are predicted. However, no long-term consequences to any stock are predicted. Long-term effects on individual marine mammals and marine mammal populations from physical disturbance, entanglement, or ingestion of military expended materials, such as wires, cables, or parachutes, are not anticipated. The potential for a vessel striking a marine mammal remains low.

#### Reptiles

Individual sea turtles could become entangled in military expended materials; however, long-term effects on sea turtle populations from physical disturbance, strike, entanglement, or ingestion of military expended materials are not anticipated. Most effects from sound-producing activities are expected to be



short-term changes in behavior and temporary hearing effects; however, some individual reptiles may experience permanent hearing effects and injury. Sound-producing activities may affect individual reptiles but are not expected to cause population level effects.

#### **Birds**

Responses of birds to sound from military readiness activities would likely be limited to short-term behavioral

responses. The proposed use of explosives would likely cause a startle reaction but the exposure would be brief, and any reactions are expected to be short-term. Although a few individual birds may experience long-term effects and potential mortality, population-level effects would not occur.

#### **Cultural Resources**

The Navy implements standard operating procedures to avoid known historic (e.g., shipwrecks) and submerged cultural resources while conducting military readiness activities at sea. Seafloor devices would be placed to avoid submerged cultural resources. Therefore, submerged cultural resources are not expected to be affected by proposed activities.

#### Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Potential effects from the Proposed Action are not expected to impact commercial transportation and shipping, commercial and recreational fishing, subsistence use, or tourism. Effects on subsistence fishing would be less than significant due to the size of the Study Area and limited amounts of military activities occurring within 3 nautical miles of the coastline. If activities were to occur in areas where subsistence fishing takes place, closures of these areas would be temporary, lasting until the activity is complete. Environmental justice communities would not be disproportionately affected due to changes in accessibility of ocean areas when compared to others who fish in the Study Area. Emissions of air pollutants associated with military readiness activities would not be expected to measurably affect the air quality in nearshore communities with environmental justice concerns.

#### **Public Health and Safety**

With the implementation of standard operating procedures, there would be no reasonably foreseeable adverse effects on public health and safety from the Proposed Action.

The analysis indicates proposed military readiness activities may affect certain marine mammal species but are not expected to decrease the overall health or survival of any population. Most of the predicted effects are non-injurious, such as behavioral responses.

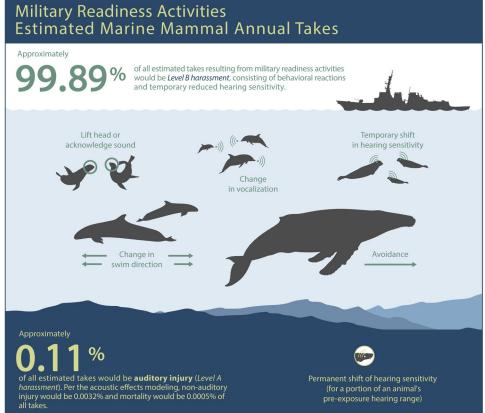




Figure 4: The military services assessed the potential effects of military readiness activities on the marine environment using the most current data and analysis methods. The analysis indicates that 99.89% of effects on marine mammals would be behavioral reactions and temporary hearing effects.

# Glossary of Regulatory Terms

- Take: To harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal. A take does not necessarily mean the animal is hurt or injured.
- Incidental take: An unintentional, but not unexpected, take.
- Hearing threshold: The lowest sound pressure at which an animal can hear a particular frequency.
- Level B harassment: An act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal's natural behavioral patterns, such as migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where patterns are abandoned or significantly altered.
  - Behavioral response:
     A disruption of natural behavior patterns.
  - Temporary threshold shift:
     A reversible shift in an animal's hearing sensitivity.
- Level A harassment: An act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild.
  - Auditory injury: Permanent hearing loss or damage to cells in the auditory system.
  - Injury: Direct harm or damage to tissues or organs.
- Mortality: When an animal is killed or is subjected to a serious injury that is more likely than not to result in death.

Sources: MMPA; NMFS.

## **Marine Resource Protection**

Protecting the environment and natural resources are important goals for the military services.

#### Marine Species Population Monitoring

The Navy works closely with NMFS as part of the Navy's Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program to coordinate monitoring efforts across all ocean regions where military readiness activities occur. The Monitoring Program provides opportunities for coordination with other Navy research programs focused on marine mammal science and living marine resources. The Monitoring Program is used as a planning tool to focus Navy monitoring priorities pursuant to ESA and MMPA requirements and as an adaptive management tool to analyze and refine monitoring and mitigation techniques over time. The Navy provides reports on its activities, including findings from passive acoustic monitoring, to NMFS. These reports are also available to the public.

Data and reports from scientific research and monitoring help environmental regulators, scientists, the public, and the Navy to:

- Build a better understanding of the abundance, distribution, foraging, reproduction, hearing, sound production, and behavior of marine species, which is necessary to assess effects from military readiness activities.
- Refine methods used to detect and monitor marine species before, during, and after military readiness activities.
- Advance the understanding of the effects of underwater sound on marine species.
- Improve models used to estimate potential effects of underwater sound on marine species.
- Use adaptive management strategies to establish guidelines for mitigating the effects of military readiness activities to continue and improve the protection of marine species.

Scientific analyses show that most effects on marine mammals from military readiness activities are non-injurious behavioral effects. Although some species may display short-term behavioral responses during activities, observations made during research and monitoring projects indicate:

- Continued presence of species and long-term residence by individual animals, including species thought to be sensitive to sound, in areas used frequently by military services.
- Recorded use of military ranges by marine mammals for breeding, birthing, and nursing.
- Lack of observable negative effects on marine mammal stocks or populations since comprehensive monitoring and data collection began in 2009.

Visit **www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us** for more information on the Navy's Marine Species Monitoring Program and to access public reports.



# **Environmental Protection at Sea**

The military services are committed to protecting the marine environment. The Navy implements and improves processes to reduce a vessel's environmental footprint by:

- Consolidating plastic waste into melted disks and preparing them for proper disposal ashore.
- Maximizing energy resiliency using energy efficient best practices and technologies.
- Managing ballast water to prevent the introduction of non-native species.
- Using shore power when ships are in port to minimize air emissions.
- · Managing, reusing, and recycling hazardous materials.

The military services are committed to avoiding, reducing, or minimizing effects on the marine environment from at-sea activities. Mitigation measures are established and adhered to with the aim of reducing effects on resources. Some requirements for military readiness activities at sea include:

- Establishing activity-based mitigation zones
- Posting qualified Lookouts to visually observe mitigation zones for marine species prior to and during activities
- Maneuvering vessels, such as reducing speed, to maintain distance from observed marine species
- Implementing geographic mitigation areas with seasonal, monthly, or year-round restrictions

The Navy uses the Protective Measures Assessment Protocol, a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based mapping tool that serves as the Navy's comprehensive data source for at-sea mitigation, prior to training and testing activities to comply with mitigation requirements and protect marine resources.

The military
services have developed
partnerships and built
coalitions with government
agencies, environmental
organizations, and communities
to better manage and
protect natural and
cultural resources.



The Navy is a world leader in marine species research, investing over \$20 million each year in research and monitoring, and is dedicated to protecting the marine and coastal environments as it trains and tests.



# **National Environmental Policy Act**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a U.S. law that requires federal agencies to identify and analyze the potential environmental effects of a proposed action before deciding whether to proceed with that action. The law encourages and facilitates public involvement to inform decision makers on actions that may affect the community or the environment.

#### Public Involvement

Public involvement is a fundamental aspect of the NEPA process, and there are opportunities for the public to participate in the development of the EIS/OEIS. The military services welcome and appreciate the public's participation.

Public and agency input allows decision makers to consider community concerns and benefit from local knowledge. The public participates in the NEPA process during the following stages:

- Scoping Period: Help to identify the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives.
- Draft EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period:
   Evaluate and provide substantive comments on the draft analysis.
- Final EIS/OEIS 30-Day Wait Period: Review the Final EIS/OEIS and responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS/OEIS.
- Record of Decision: View the explanations for the agency's decision and plans for mitigation and monitoring.

Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/OEIS Dec. 15, 2023

Scoping and Section 106 Comment Period Dec. 15, 2023 – Jan. 29, 2024

Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS Dec. 13, 2024



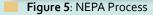
Draft EIS/OEIS and Section 106
Public Review and Comment Period
Dec. 13, 2024 - Feb. 11, 2025

Notice of Availability of the Final EIS/OEIS
Fall 2025

**30-Day Wait Period** Fall 2025

Record of Decision Late 2025

- Opportunity for Public Review and Comment Under NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Opportunity for Public Review Under NEPA





## **National Historic Preservation Act Section 106**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is a law that requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their actions on historic properties and look for ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate them. The Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period also supports consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations, as members of the public are invited to participate, provide comments, or raise concerns about potential effects on historic properties.

Please share this information to help inform your community.

Public involvement is an important part of the NHPA Section 106 process. The military services encourage the public to help identify historic properties and share information regarding potential effects on historic properties by providing a written comment during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. Historic properties may include archaeological sites, sacred and religious sites, submerged historic resources, traditional cultural places, or historic buildings, structures, or objects. Individuals, organizations, or agencies may submit a comment or request information on the NHPA Section 106 consultation process at one of the in-person public meetings, electronically via the project website, or via the address provided in the Submitting Comments section.

Public involvement is a fundamental aspect of the NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes.

In an effort to improve and strengthen the EIS/OEIS, the military services welcome and appreciate the public's participation.



# **Submitting Comments**

The public is invited to review the Draft EIS/OEIS and provide substantive comments on the Proposed Action and the environmental analysis, as well as the project's potential to affect historic properties as it relates to Section 106 of the NHPA. Comments will be considered under NEPA and pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

Comments must be postmarked or received online no later than 11:59 p.m. HST on Feb. 11, 2025, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted at one of the in-person public meetings, electronically via the project website at www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/, or via mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific Attention: HCTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134







# **How to Participate**

#### In-Person Public Meetings\*

The Navy is holding three in-person public meetings, consisting of an open-house information session, a short presentation by the Navy, and a public oral comment session. Comments will also be accepted in writing. Navy representatives will be available during the open-house information sessions to answer questions and clarify information related to the Draft EIS/OEIS.

#### San Diego, California Monday, Jan. 13, 2025

4 to 7 p.m. Open House 5 p.m. Presentation/ Comment Session Portuguese Hall 2818 Avenida de Portugal

#### Honolulu, Hawaii (Oahu) Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025

4 to 7 p.m. Open House 5 p.m. Presentation/ Comment Session Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial Weinberg Hall 2685 N. Nimitz Highway

#### Lihue, Hawaii (Kauai) Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025

4 to 7 p.m. Open House 5 p.m. Presentation/ Comment Session Kauai Veterans Center 3215 Kauai Veterans Memorial Highway

\*all times are local

#### Virtual Public Meeting

The Navy is also holding a live virtual public meeting, consisting of a presentation and question-and-answer session. Questions concerning the Draft EIS/OEIS will be accepted in advance through Jan. 15, 2025, via the question form on the project website. Questions may also be submitted in writing during the virtual public meeting. Please note that questions submitted as part of the question-and-answer session are not official public comments. Visit www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/ for more information.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025 3 to 4 p.m. HST/5 to 6 p.m. PST

Zoom URL: https://mantech.zoomgov.com/s/1616118177

Phone: 1-669-254-5252 Webinar ID: 161 611 8177



# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE PRESENTATION

A virtual open house presentation is also available on the project website at www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period from Dec. 13, 2024, to Feb. 11, 2025.

The presentation provides information about the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, potential effects on environmental resource areas from the Proposed Action, the NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes, and public involvement opportunities.

The public can view the virtual open house presentation at www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/ anytime during the public review and comment period.