

# Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT)

**Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental  
Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for Activities Beginning in 2018**

[www.HSTTEIS.com](http://www.HSTTEIS.com)

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Presented to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem

Reserve Advisory Council

12 October 2017

Overall Classification of this Briefing is

**UNCLASSIFIED**



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# Agenda

- Importance of naval at-sea training and testing
- Regulatory requirements and the HSTT EIS/OEIS
- Training and testing in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area
- Navy activities conducted in the Monument
- Summary of Impacts
- Environmental Protection
- National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process and public involvement



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# Importance of Naval Training and Testing

## Mission of the Navy

To maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

- Crucial for military readiness, personnel safety, and national defense
- Training Sailors to respond to a range of situations:
  - Large-scale conflict
  - Homeland defense
  - Maritime security
  - Anti-piracy operations
  - Humanitarian assistance
  - Disaster relief
- Testing and evaluating new and emerging technologies



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# Training and Testing in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area



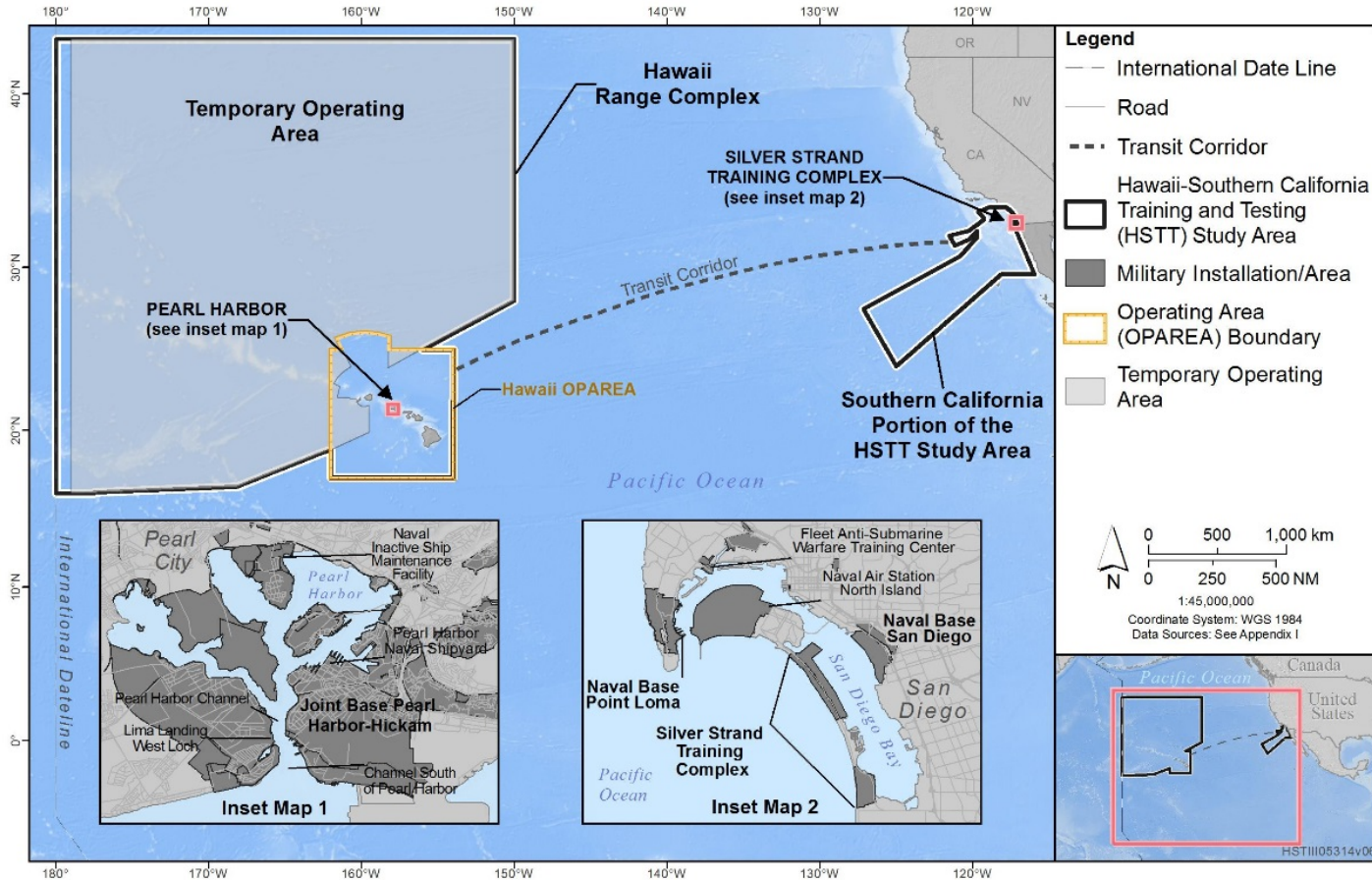
- The HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area provides a range of realistic training environments and sufficient air and sea space and infrastructure necessary for safety and mission success.
- The EIS/OEIS supports the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act required to conduct activities.
- Proposed activities are similar to the types of activities that have occurred in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area for decades.



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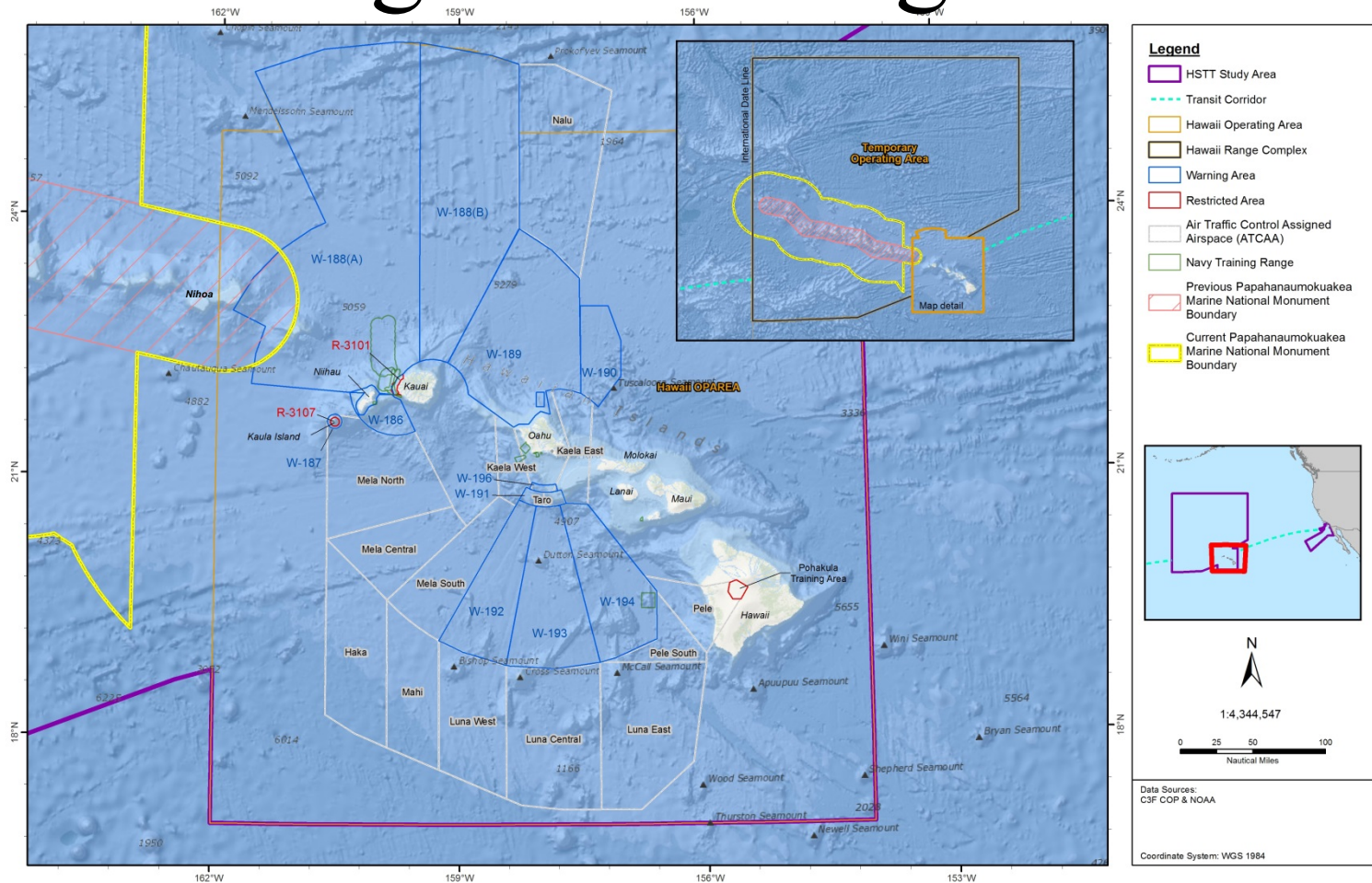
# HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area



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# Primary Hawaii Training and Testing Areas



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# Proposed Action

Within the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area, the Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities, which include the use of active sonar and explosives, while employing marine species protective mitigation measures.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Train and test at levels required to support military readiness requirements beginning in 2018
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet

Proposed training and testing activities are:

- Similar to the types of activities that have occurred in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area for decades
- Generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2013 Final EIS/OEIS and earlier environmental planning documents



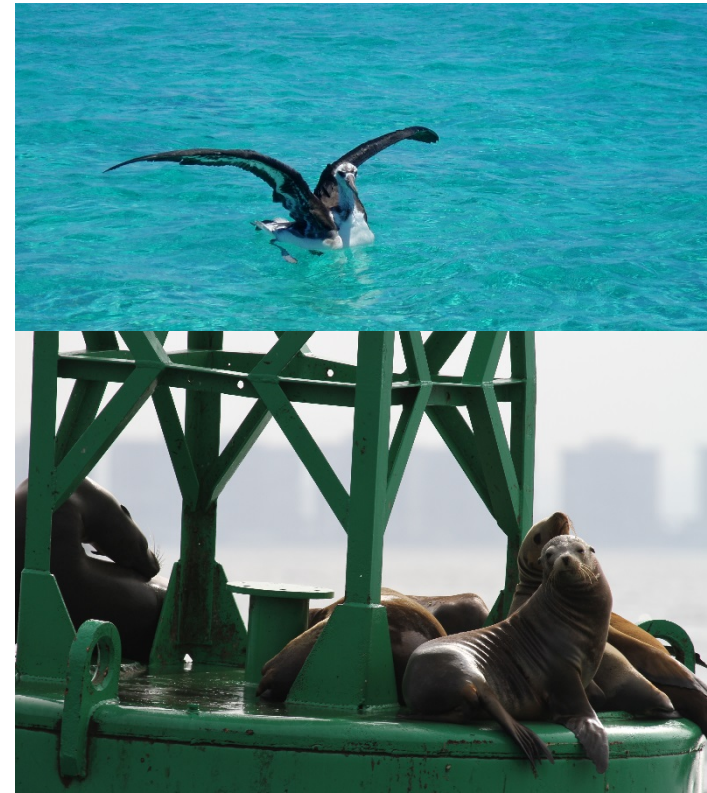
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# Environmental Compliance

Includes, but not limited to, compliance with the following acts:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act



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# EIS/OEIS Preparation

The Navy prepared the EIS/OEIS to:

- Support issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations
- Adjust training and testing activities from current levels to the level needed to support Navy requirements
- Update environmental analyses from the 2013 Final EIS/OEIS by continuing to use the best available science and most current analytical methods to re-evaluate the potential effects of military readiness activities



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# Environmental Review

- **Phase I:** Three environmental documents completed between 2008 and 2012
  - Hawaii Range Complex EIS/OEIS (2008)
  - Southern California Range Complex EIS/OEIS (2008)
  - Silver Strand Training Complex EIS (2012)
- **Phase II:** Three Phase I documents consolidated into the HSTT EIS/OEIS (2013)
  - Re-evaluated impacts from ongoing training and testing activities occurring in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area from 2013 to 2018
  - Updated training and testing activities based on changing requirements
- **Phase III (Current Phase):** Navy analyzing both ongoing and new activities that would begin in 2018



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# Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Monument covered in the EIS/OEIS

- Predominately, Navy activities are opportunistic training by individual ships transiting to/from the Western Pacific on deployment. U.S. Marine Corps activities within the Monument are done in conjunction with the Navy on Navy vessels and/or assets.
  - Minimal overlap of individual ship activities in the Monument.
  - No explosives are used within the Monument.
  - Infrequent missile overflight of the Monument for test events.
- **No new activities are proposed to be conducted within the Monument**



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# Summary of the Draft EIS/OEIS Impact Analysis

- The Navy analyzed three alternatives to determine potential impacts on the environment from proposed training and testing activities.
- The Navy encourages the public to provide substantive and concise comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.



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# Resource Areas Analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS

Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts analyzed:

*Physical Resources:*

- Air quality
- Sediments and water quality

*Human Resources:*

- Cultural
- Socioeconomic
- Public health and safety

*Biological Resources*

- Vegetation
- Invertebrates
- Habitats
- Fishes
- Marine mammals
- Reptiles
- Birds

Minimizing impacts on the marine environment from training and testing is important to the Navy. The Navy will continue to implement mitigation and monitoring measures to avoid or reduce environmental impacts from naval activities.



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# Impacts on Monument Resources

- In accordance with Presidential Proclamation 8031 and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument regulations (50 CFR part 404), all activities and exercises of the Armed Forces shall be carried out in a manner that avoids, to the extent practicable and consistent with operational requirements, adverse impacts on Monument resources and qualities.
- No adverse impacts on cultural resources would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. While there has been no incident to date, should there be a threatened or actual event that may cause destruction of, loss of, or injury to a monument resource or quality (such as spill or grounding), the Department of Defense and Navy will coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce and Interior to respond to, provide mitigation, or restore the effects of any such harm.



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# Impacts on Marine Species from Sonar and Explosives

- Minimizing impacts on the marine environment is important to the Navy.
- The analysis indicates that the majority of effects on marine mammals would be *behavioral responses*.
- The Navy will continue to implement mitigation and monitoring measures delineated in the National Marine Fisheries Service Letter of Authorization under MMPA and Biological Opinion under ESA to minimize effects on marine species.



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# Cumulative Impacts

- Through the implementation of standard operating procedures and mitigation measures, the incremental contribution of the Proposed Action, when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, would not significantly contribute to cumulative stress on marine mammals, sea turtles, or other resources.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration permit  
no. 642-1536-03 issued to Joseph Mobley of HDR



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# Protecting the Marine Environment



- The Navy applies the most current, best available science and analytical methods to re-evaluate protective measures that help minimize impacts on the marine environment.
- Existing at-sea mitigation measures include:
  - Post qualified Lookouts
  - Observe area prior to activities
  - Establish mitigation zones for seafloor resources
  - Minimize interactions with marine species
  - Evaluate location and timing for each activity
  - Navigate safely



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# Supporting Independent Marine Species Research and Monitoring

- The Navy is a world leader in marine species research and monitoring.
- This research allows scientists to:
  - Better understand abundance, distribution, and behavior to assess effects from Navy activities
  - Assess behavioral responses to sonar and explosives
  - Develop and improve models that better predict potential effects of underwater sound and explosives
  - Develop effective protective measures
- As part of its Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program, the Navy works closely with the National Marine Service to coordinate monitoring efforts across all ocean regions where the Navy trains and conducts tests.



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# Marine Mammal Monitoring

Since 2006, the Navy has funded surveys and data collection efforts within the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area to inform:

- Marine species occurrence
- Behavior
- Exposure
- Response to naval activities

Collected data provide indicators that training and testing:

- Would be unlikely to have long-term consequences on marine mammal populations
  - Could result in short-term behavioral responses during or following certain activities
- Indicators that current protective measures are successful include:
- Increases in the number of certain marine species present in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area
  - Continued presence of species and long-term residence by individual animals in high-use areas, including species thought to be sensitive to sound
  - Lack of observable negative effects on marine mammal stocks or populations over more than 10 years of comprehensive monitoring and data collection

Visit [www.navy-marine-species-monitoring.us](http://www.navy-marine-species-monitoring.us) for more information.



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# Partnering for Sustainability

- Develops partnerships and builds coalitions with other government agencies and organizations, including federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, to better manage and protect natural and cultural resources and leverage limited resources.
- Shares interests with environmental groups and government agencies for:
  - Protecting threatened and endangered species
  - Preserving critical habitat and open space
  - Promoting energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources



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# Environmental Protection at Sea

The Navy continues to implement and improve programs to reduce a vessel's environmental footprint by:

- Ensuring no plastic waste is discharged at sea
- Managing solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner
- Conserving energy by installing energy-efficient technologies
- Using ballast water management practices to aid in preventing the introduction of non-native species



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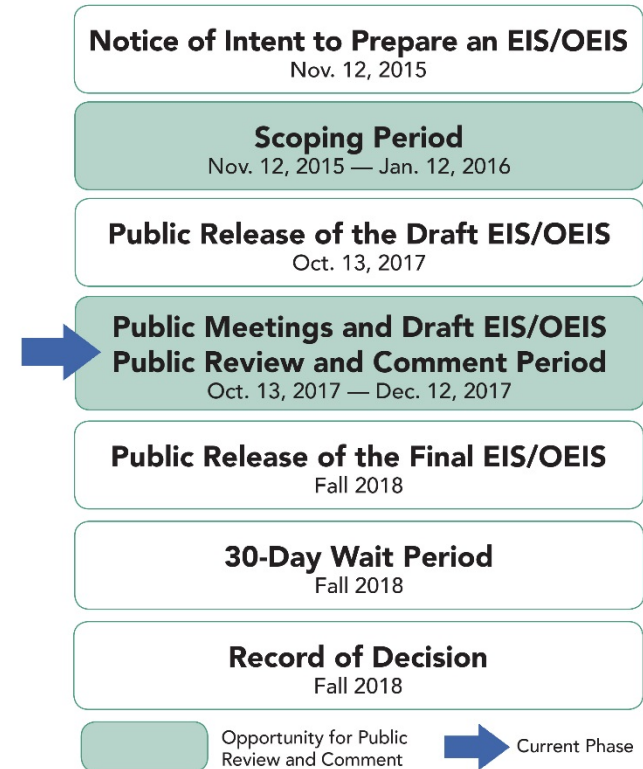
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# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

## NEPA:

- A U.S. federal law that requires federal agencies to identify and analyze the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action before deciding whether to proceed with that action.
- Public involvement is a fundamental aspect of the environmental analysis process.

## NEPA Process

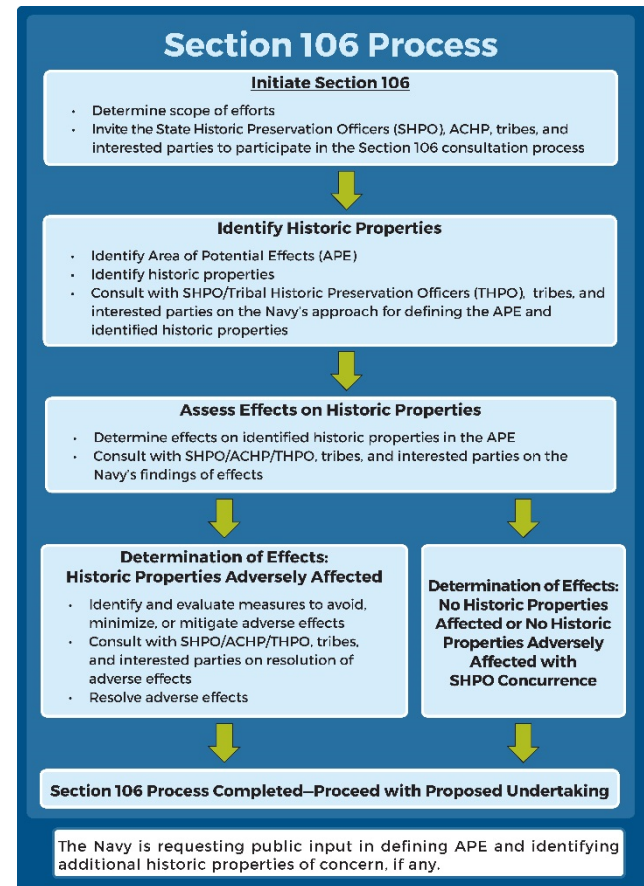


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# National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation Process

- Requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their actions on historic properties
- Provides the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment.
- Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the Navy is conducting NHPA section 106 consultations regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties.
- During the NEPA public meetings, an information station will be available, where subject matter experts will explain the section 106 process.
- The Navy welcomes comments on historic properties or potential effects on historic properties.



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# Public Involvement

- Public and agency input allows decision makers to benefit from local knowledge and consider community issues and concerns.
- The public participates in the National Environmental Policy Act process during the following stages by:
  - **Scoping Period:** Helping to identify the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives
  - **Draft EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period:** Evaluating and providing substantive comments on the draft analysis
  - **Final EIS/OEIS Wait Period:** Reviewing the Final EIS/OEIS and Navy responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS/OEIS



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# Public Outreach to Native Hawaiian Organizations

- Recognizes its obligation to protect traditional and cultural resources
- Is committed to complying with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies to ensure their protection
- Implements public outreach in accordance with *Department of Defense Instruction 4710.03 Consultation Policy with Native Hawaiian Organizations (Oct. 25, 2011)*
- Improves cultural resource programs to care for the cultural and historic buildings and sites on the Navy's training and testing ranges
- Demonstrates its dedication to maintaining the islands' cultural environment



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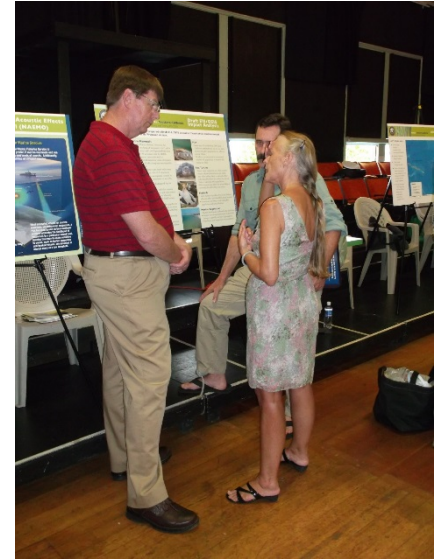
# Public Meetings

The public meetings will include:

- Open house with poster stations staffed by Navy representatives
- Brief presentation by the Navy
- Public oral comment session

**Public meetings in Hawaii will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.:**

- **Monday, Nov. 6, 2017:** Oahu Veterans Center, Fred Ballard Hall, 1298 Kukila St., Honolulu, HI 96818
- **Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017:** Maui High School, Cafeteria, 660 S. Lono Ave., Kahului, HI 96732
- **Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017:** Kauai Veterans Center, Main Ballroom, 3215 Kapule Highway, Lihue, HI 96766
- **Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017:** Waiakea High School, Cafeteria, 155 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720



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# Public Review and Comments

The Navy welcomes and appreciates substantive public comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

- Submit written and oral comments at the public meetings
- Submit comments via the project website at: [www.HSTTEIS.com](http://www.HSTTEIS.com)
- Mail comments to:

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

Comments must be postmarked or received online by **Dec. 12, 2017**, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.



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# Information Repositories

- Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96813
- Hilo Public Library, 300 Waianuenue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720
- Kahului Public Library, 90 School St., Kahului, HI 96732
- Kailua-Kona Public Library, 75-138 Hualalai Road, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
- Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 96766



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