



**COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII &
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET, SUITE 110
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860
PHONE: 808-473-2888 FAX: 808-473-2876
www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii



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**HAWAII-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAINING AND TESTING DRAFT EIS/OEIS
AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW: U.S. NAVY INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT**

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM – In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Executive Order 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*, the U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with military readiness training and research, development, test and evaluation activities (“training and testing”) conducted within the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) Study Area.

The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities primarily within existing range complexes and operating areas located in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands and off the coast of Southern California, Navy pierside locations in both areas and a transit corridor connecting the Hawaii and Southern California range complexes. The Proposed Action includes the use of active sonar and explosives. The Proposed Action also includes activities such as sonar maintenance and gunnery exercises conducted by ships in transit between the Hawaii and Southern California range complexes, and which may occur outside Navy range complexes. Additionally, the Proposed Action includes pierside sonar testing conducted as part of construction, overhaul, modernization, maintenance and repair activities at shipyards and Navy piers in San Diego Bay and Pearl Harbor.

The Proposed Action would ensure the Navy accomplishes its mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready U.S. naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

The Navy requests public input on the Proposed Action and alternatives, and the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft EIS/OEIS analysis. Copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS are available for public review online at **www.HSTTEIS.com** and at the following information repositories in Hawaii:

- Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 96766
- Kailua-Kona Public Library, 75-138 Hualalai Road, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
- Wailuku Public Library, 251 High St., Wailuku, HI 96793
- Hilo Public Library, 300 Waianuenue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720
- Hawaii State Library, Hawaii and Pacific Section, 478 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96813

The Navy is accepting comments throughout the 60-day public comment period, from May 11, 2012, to July 10, 2012. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **July 10, 2012**, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. Written comments may be submitted via the project website at www.HSTTEIS.com, in person at the public meetings or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest
Attention: HSTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager – EV21.CS
1220 Pacific Highway, Building 1, Floor 3
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

Four open house public meetings will be held in Hawaii to inform the public about the Navy's Proposed Action and to obtain comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS. The public may arrive at any time during the open house public meetings. There will not be a formal presentation; however, Navy representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions about the Proposed Action and Draft EIS/OEIS. The open house public meetings will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Location: Wilcox Elementary School Cafeteria
4319 Hardy St.
Lihue, HI 96766

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2012
Location: Maui Waena Intermediate School Cafeteria
795 Onehee Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2012
Location: East Hawaii Cultural Center
141 Kalakaua St.
Hilo, HI 96720

Date: Friday, June 15, 2012
Location: McKinley High School Cafeteria
1039 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96814

One open house public meeting will also be held in Southern California on June 20, 2012.

Visit the project website at www.HSTTEIS.com to learn more about the project.

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NOTE: Media interested in attending any of the public meetings or seeking further information should contact Mark Matsunaga, Pacific Fleet Public Affairs, 808-471-3769, or Tom Clements, Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs, 808-335-4740.