U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility and NASA Kōkeʻe Park Geophysical Observatory Real Estate Environmental Impact Statement

Public Scoping Fact Sheet

Public Scoping Meeting Schedule

Attend any of the three public scoping meetings to talk story, learn more, and submit comments. Your voice is important to this planning process.

DATE	LOCATION	AGENDA
Tuesday, June 4, 2024	Kauaʻi Veterans Center 3215 Kauaʻi Veterans Memorial Hwy, Līhuʻe	• 5 to 8 p.m. Information stations – meet the project team, talk story, and ask questions. Visit the comments station to provide a written or oral comment. • 6 to 6:30 p.m. Project presentation by Navy and NASA.
Wednesday, June 5, 2024	Kekaha Neighborhood Center 8130 Elepaio Road, Kekaha	
Thursday, June 6, 2024	Sheraton Kauaʻi Coconut Beach Resort 650 Aleka Loop, Kapaʻa	**MEETING TIME:** 5 to 8 p.m. HST

Please Check In!

Scoping is the public's opportunity to provide comments to help the Navy and NASA focus their analysis. Please visit the project website at PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com

Welcome

The U.S. Navy (Navy) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed real estate agreements with the State of Hawai`i for the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) and the Kōke`e Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO). The Navy and NASA invite you to participate in this environmental planning process.

What are the Navy and NASA Proposing?

The Navy currently leases or holds easements for approximately 8,348 acres of State of Hawai`i land primarily for passive encroachment buffer as well as for mission readiness, access, and utilities for PMRF on Kaua`i. The Navy proposes to maintain long-term Department of Defense use of the 8,348 acres of State of Hawai`i lands on Kaua`i for operational continuity and sustainment of the military readiness mission.

The Navy operates on 410 acres of the total acres leased from the State of Hawai`i. The remaining acres are used as buffer zones, conservation areas, infrastructure, and access corridors.

NASA currently leases or holds easements for 23 acres of State of Hawai`i land for operations of KPGO. NASA has issued a Use Permit to the Navy for use of portions of KPGO to conduct PMRF mission support with radar, telemetry, and communications services.

NASA operates KPGO to collect geodetic data about the Earth's shape, orientation in space, and gravity. This data supports modern navigation technology such as the Global Positioning System (GPS) that is used every day in a wide variety of devices, from handheld smartphones to satellites. In addition, this data is used for scientific studies, spacecraft navigation, and the geolocation of Earth observations.

NASA proposes to maintain long-term use of the 23 acres of leased lands and easements for continued operation of KPGO. The Proposed Action is needed because existing real estate agreements for these State lands are set to expire between 2027 and 2030.

On Kaua`i, the Navy is the largest high-tech employer and third largest overall employer. Most of the 900 personnel at PMRF are civilians, including many from the local community. PMRF contributes approximately $150 million annually in salary, contract goods, and services to the local economy.

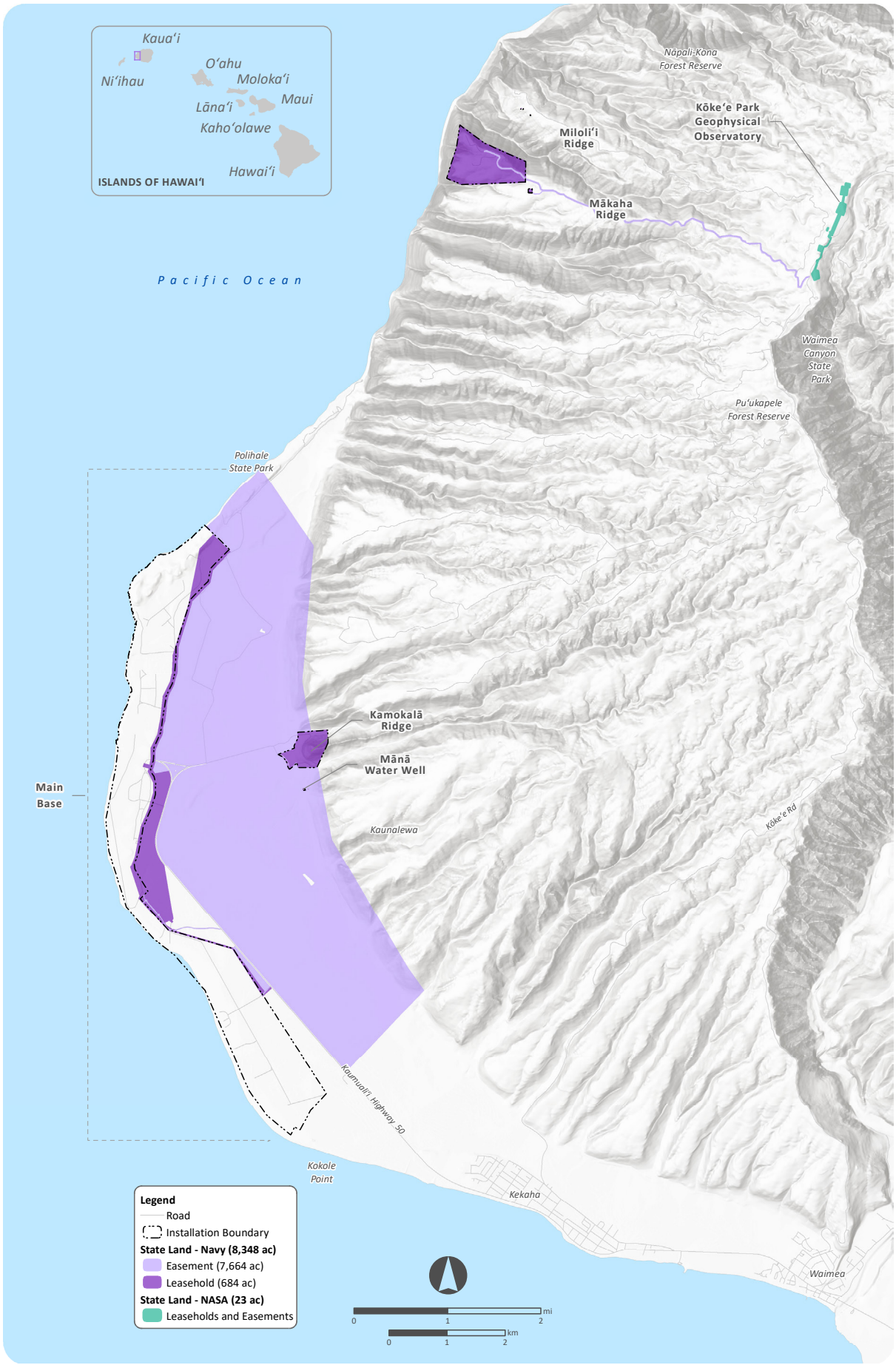

Figure 1. Project Map

Action Alternatives

Alternative 1: Succeeding Current Real Estate Agreements.

Under this alternative, the Navy and NASA would apply to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for new long-term real estate agreements in the same manner, similar duration, and for the same uses as the current leases and easements. The Navy's agreements would include 684 acres of land leased exclusively by the Navy and 7,664 acres of easements. NASA's agreements would include 16 acres of land leased exclusively by NASA, 7 acres of easement lands, and would continue its Use Permit with the Navy. This alternative would not change any use or maintenance of existing infrastructure and would not involve construction, renovation, or demolition of facilities.

Alternative 2: Fee Simple Acquisition of Current Real Estate Agreements for Leaseholds.

Under this alternative, the Navy and NASA would pursue fee simple acquisition of 700 acres (684 acres for Navy use and 16 acres for NASA use) of leaseholds, and otherwise obtain use of the remaining acreage as described in Alternative 1. The new Navy fee simple land of 684 acres would include 392 acres of land at the Main Base, 89 acres at Kamokalā Ridge, 0.29 acre at the Mānā Water Well, 0.015 acre at Miloli`i Ridge, 203 acres at Mākaha Ridge, and the NASA fee simple land would include 16 acres at KPGO. This acreage would be transferred from ownership by the State of Hawai`i to the United States. This alternative would not change any use or maintenance of existing infrastructure and would not involve construction, renovation, or demolition of facilities.

Alternative 3: No Action Alternative.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Navy and NASA would not seek any real estate agreements for the State lands on Kaua`i after expiration of the leases and easements between 2027 to 2030. The current real estate agreements for 8,348 acres with the Navy and 23 acres with NASA would expire. All existing infrastructure would be removed, or abandoned in place, from Navy and NASA leased and easement lands.

Preliminary Environmental Resources to be Studied

The Navy and NASA propose to evaluate potential environmental impacts for each of the alternatives on the following resource areas. The public is invited to provide input on these and other resources that should be considered in the EIS.

Social Environment

- Archaeological and historic resources
- Cultural practices
- Visual resources
- Public health and safety
- Land use
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental justice

Physical Environment

- Air quality and greenhouse gases
- Water resources

Biological Environment

- Biological resources

Built Environment

- Utilities
- Transportation
- Hazardous materials and wastes

PMRF honors ancestral Native Hawaiians in summer solstice event.

Sea turtle on beach at PMRF.

Nohili Dunes.

Waiokapua Bay, at PMRF.

Hawai'i's state bird, the nēnē, or Hawaiian goose.

Solar panels at PMRF.

About the Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility and NASA Kōkeʻe Park Geophysical Observatory

Pacific Missile Range Facility

PMRF is the world's largest instrumented multi-domain training and testing facility. What makes PMRF unique is its ability to simultaneously support surface, subsurface, air, and space operations. For portions of PMRF, the Navy has lease agreements with the State of Hawaiʻi for 8,348 acres, comprised of 684 acres of leaseholds and 7,664 acres of easements. The Navy operates on 410 acres of the total acres leased from the State. The majority of the leased and easement areas remain intentionally undeveloped as they are used as an encroachment buffer and security for the facility's mission. For more information, visit https://cnrh.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/PMRF-Barking-Sands/

PMRF engages and actively participates with the community. Personnel who work at PMRF take great pride in their role as caretakers of the cultural and natural resources they are entrusted with. As the third largest employer on Kauaʻi, many of the personnel are from the community.

Kōkeʻe Park Geophysical Observatory

NASA's Kōkeʻe Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO) is located on a remote ridge within Kōkeʻe State Park. NASA operates the observatory to collect geodetic data that contributes to daily measurements of the Earth's orientation in space and rotation. This data is used for scientific studies and a wide variety of positioning and navigation applications. For more information, visit https://space-geodesy.nasa.gov/NSGN/sites/KPGO/KPGO.html

Preserving the long-term Department of Defense and NASA use of these State lands is critical for military readiness, continuation of ongoing military training and testing, and maintaining data collection efforts of global and local significance. It also ensures the continued conservation management by the Navy and NASA of natural and cultural resources on these lands.

PMRF and KPGO Timeline

1964 - 2007
Navy and NASA enter into real estate agreements with the State of Hawaiʻi

1988
Navy establishes Natural Resources Management Plan for PMRF

1998
Navy establishes Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for PMRF

2014
Navy establishes Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program projects for PMRF

2019
Lua Kupapaʻu O Nohili (crypt) is constructed

2027 - 2030
Current real estate agreements expire

What is the Space Geodesy Project at KPGO?

The Space Geodesy Project (SGP) maintains a global network of space geodetic observing instruments. The network is comprised of sites around the world that use four primary observation techniques:

- Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI)
- Satellite Laser Ranging
- Doppler Orbitography by Radiopositioning Integrated on Satellite (DORIS)
- Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)

The International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) is determined by the observations made from the instruments listed above and is the foundation for virtually all Earth observations and georeferenced data used by society. This data is fundamental for:

- Positioning and navigation in space/air and on land/sea
- Tracking sea level changes
- Tsunami early warning systems
- Volcano deformation measurements
- Predicting flood patterns
- Studying glacier dynamics

What is KPGO?

The Kōke`e Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO) is one of the core sites for NASA's SGP. The mission of KPGO is to collect geodetic data to support the geolocation of Earth observation from both land and space as well as scientific investigations of the Earth's surface and interior.

Why is KPGO Important?

NASA and the scientific community use the data collected by KPGO to study ecosystems, water cycles, geological hazards, sea-level change, crustal-dynamics, and many other Earth science topics. Many of these applications rely on the long history and continuity of the geodetic data collected from the current KPGO location.

Why Kōke`e State Park?

KPGO is in Kōke`e State Park at an elevation of 3,600 feet near the Waimea Canyon, isolated from radio broadcasts that would interfere with the sensitive measurements made by the VLBI system. The location on the island of Kaua`i is also critical for tying the Hawaiian Islands into the ITRF that contributes towards improving positioning and navigation accuracy on and around Hawai`i.

Stewardship and Care of the Land

Personnel who work at PMRF take great pride in their role as caretakers of the cultural and natural resources they are entrusted with.

E Pane Mai Ka Nonoi O Nohili

Answering the requests of Nohili

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Conservation of Laysan albatross through translocation program.

Conservation of green sea turtles and their nests.

Conservation of sensitive species at Honopū Valley.

CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION

The Lua Kupapa'u O Nohili (crypt) preserves and honors iwi kūpuna (ancestral remains) found on PMRF.

Mānā Town Japanese cemetery from the sugar plantation days.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Local scientists and students take part in natural resource surveys.

PMRF celebrates with the community at Kekaha Family Fun Day.

PMRF hosts the community at Earth Day events.

CLEAN ENERGY AND RESILIENCY THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Solar facility and battery energy storage system at PMRF.

In 2023, the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program awarded $5.29 million to natural resource conservation projects on Kaua`i. Approximately $26.7 million was awarded for all of Hawai`i.

NEPA/HEPA/Historic Preservation Process and Community Involvement

The Navy and NASA are jointly preparing the EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will also be used by the Hawai`i Department of Land and Natural Resources under Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 and Hawai`i Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200.1, collectively referred to as the Hawai`i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA), in its decision making as to whether and what type of real estate agreement it may grant the Navy and NASA.

The EIS Process diagram (at right) illustrates the stages of public involvement in the NEPA and HEPA environmental processes. The public involvement processes for NEPA and HEPA for this EIS are running concurrently to meet the requirements for both state and federal laws and regulations.

The NEPA/HEPA scoping meetings will also serve as an opportunity to obtain public input concerning potential effects to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and HRS Section 6E-42.

Community Involvement

The Navy and NASA are initiating a public scoping process to receive comments on the scope of the EIS. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the environmental planning process by providing input on the proposed real estate action including potential alternatives, environmental or cultural concerns, information the public would like the Navy and NASA to know, and any other information the public would like to see addressed in the EIS, and the project's potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and HRS Section 6E-42.

The Navy and NASA are proud contributing members of the local community. The Navy and NASA value and welcome input from the community, as well as the chance to share, communicate, and inform the community about the EIS and the need for the real estate agreements.

Opportunities for formal public participation in the EIS process occur during two stages:

1. During the scoping period, following publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) and the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN).
2. During the comment period following publication of the Draft EIS.

What is Scoping?

Scoping occurs at the beginning of the NEPA/HEPA process to help the Navy and NASA understand community-specific concerns regarding the Proposed Action and the planned analysis. Scoping encourages the participation of other federal, state, and local agencies, Native Hawaiian Organizations, environmental, cultural, and other groups, and the general public. Scoping helps determine what should be studied in this EIS including the alternatives and resources to be analyzed.

How to Submit Comments

Submit Comments in Person, Online, or by Mail.

Submit comments by ***June 17, 2024***. The Navy and NASA encourage the public to attend a public scoping meeting and to visit the project website to learn more.

The public may submit comments in any of the following ways:

- In person at a public scoping meeting
- Through the project website at **PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com**
- By email to **info@PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com**
- By mail, **postmarked by *June 17, 2024*** to the following address:

  Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Hawai`i
  Environmental OPHEV2
  Attention: PMRF and KPGO RE EIS Project Manager, Ms. Kerry Wells
  400 Marshall Road, Building X-11
  Pearl Harbor, HI 96860

For language assistance or special accommodations, contact the PMRF Public Affairs Officer, at (808) 335-4740 or PMRFPublicAffairs@us.navy.mil.

Notes:

We appreciate your time and interest.

For more information visit the project website at PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com