



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER



5090
Ser N4/338
10 Aug 26

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: United States (U.S.) Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Kōke'e Park Geophysical Observatory Real Estate Final Environmental Impact Statement, Kaua'i, Hawai'i; Tax Map Keys: (4) 1-2-001:006 (por.), (4) 1-2-001:010, (4) 1-2-002:001 (por.), (4) 1-2-002:010 (por.), (4) 1-2-002:024 (por.), (4) 1-2-002:025, (4) 1-2-002:026, (4) 1-2-002:027, (4) 1-2-002:028, (4) 1-2-002:029, (4) 1-2-016:011 (por.), (4) 1-4-001:002 (por.), (4) 1-4-001:013 (por.), (4) 1-4-001:014 (por.)

The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are writing to notify you that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed continued use of State lands on Kaua'i by the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) and Kōke'e Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO) is now available. The Navy and NASA prepared the Final EIS as applicants and joint lead agencies pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 (HEPA), and Hawai'i Administrative Rules section 11-200.1.

The Navy and NASA coordinated with the Department of Land and Natural Resources in analyzing the potential environmental consequences of the Navy's proposal to maintain the use of 8,172 acres of State lands on Kaua'i for operational continuity and sustainment in support of continued military training, testing, and facility operations at PMRF and NASA's proposal to maintain the use of 23 acres of State lands on Kaua'i in support of continued operations at KPGO, including measurements of the Earth's rotation and local land motion. The Navy and NASA currently use these lands pursuant to leases and easements granted by the State of Hawai'i (Encl. 1).

The Proposed Action is being considered because the existing real estate agreements for these State lands will expire between 2027 and 2030. Navy training and testing activities do not occur on the State lands addressed in the Final EIS; however, continued Navy use of these lands is required to maintain technological and safety capabilities supporting training and testing at PMRF. The environmental effects of Navy training and testing activities have been analyzed in environmental documents focused specifically on those activities (see Section 1.5 of the Final EIS). For NASA, these State lands support data collection efforts of global scientific significance. The Proposed Action would also continue Navy and NASA management of natural and cultural resources on these lands, in coordination with State agencies and in compliance with applicable federal and State requirements.

In addition to supporting the Hawai‘i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) decision regarding Navy and NASA use of State lands, the Proposed Action would provide BLNR with lease and easement revenues to support its management of State lands and associated environmental and conservation programs. As required by law, the fees would be deposited into a State fund. Twenty percent of revenue from ceded lands¹ would be provided to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), with the remainder deposited into the Special Land Development Fund.

The Final EIS also evaluates socioeconomic effects associated with continued Navy and NASA use of these State lands, including the preservation of local employment and income and contributions to the Kaua‘i economy. Continued use also keeps requirements in place for the Navy and NASA to manage natural and cultural resources on State lands.

At PMRF, the Navy’s real estate agreements with the State of Hawai‘i encompass 8,172 acres, comprising 684 acres of leaseholds and 7,488 acres of easement lands. Most of the leasehold and easement areas remain intentionally undeveloped to provide encroachment buffers and security for the range mission. The Navy’s current leases and easements support mission operations, access, and utilities at five general locations: Main Base,² Kamokalā Ridge, Mānā Water Well, Miloli‘i Ridge, and Mākaha Ridge.

At KPGO, NASA’s real estate agreements with the State of Hawai‘i encompass 23 acres of State lands, comprising 16 acres of leaseholds and 7 acres of easement lands, across five parcels along a one-mile stretch of road in Kōke‘e State Park. In 2016, NASA issued the Navy a use permit for portions of KPGO for radar, telemetry, and communications services in support of PMRF operations.

The Final EIS analyzes the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. It satisfies applicable federal and State of Hawai‘i requirements and provides the analyses necessary for Navy, NASA, and BLNR decision-makers to consider the environmental effects of the Proposed Action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Navy and NASA held a public comment period on the Draft EIS from June 20 through August 7, 2025. Three public meetings were held in July 2025 in Līhu‘e, Kekaha, and Kapa‘a to

¹ The term “ceded lands” is used to refer to the government lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i and the Crown lands that were the property of the Hawaiian monarch, which the Republic of Hawaii transferred or “ceded” to the United States government in the Joint Resolution of Annexation approved by President William McKinley on July 7, 1898 (30 Stat. 750). Upon statehood in 1959, the federal government returned to the State of Hawai‘i all ceded lands not set aside for its own use in Section 5(f) of the Admission Act. The use of the term “ceded land” is consistent with usage by other State agencies (e.g., <https://www.oha.org/about/abouthistory/>).

² Note that “Main Base” is a common naming convention for Navy fee simple, leasehold, and easement lands on the Mānā Plain. This EIS only analyzes potential effects from the Proposed Action on the leasehold and easement lands in the Project Area.

provide project information and receive public comments. The meetings were also accessible online. The Navy and NASA appreciate the individuals, organizations, and government agencies that participated in the public-review process, as well as the coordination and guidance from DLNR throughout the process. The Final EIS includes responses to comments received on the Draft EIS and incorporates substantive revisions made in response to those comments.

Responding to comments requesting increased communication with the public and regulatory agencies, the Proposed Action includes supplementary Navy and NASA measures collectively identified as “Enhanced Engagement.” These measures are intended to provide additional opportunities for communication, information sharing, and cooperation between the federal agencies and the community. For example, Enhanced Engagement 4, “PMRF Kaua‘i,” includes the PMRF Kaua‘i website (<https://pmrfkauai.com/>) and a quarterly newsletter (Encl. 2) currently distributed to more than 300 individuals and organizations. Developed and refined in response to feedback received during the EIS process, these measures reflect Navy and NASA commitments to strengthen connections with the community by providing residents and State agencies with updates and opportunities for engagement.

NEXT STEPS

The Notice of Availability for the Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register on August 21, 2026. Following publication of the Final EIS in The Environmental Notice on August 23, 2026, BLNR will determine the acceptability of the Final EIS in accordance with HEPA and publish its determination in The Environmental Notice. The BLNR meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2026. A 60-day HEPA waiting period will follow publication of BLNR’s determination. Following the applicable 30-day NEPA waiting period, the Navy and NASA will each issue a Record of Decision documenting their respective decisions.

FINAL EIS AVAILABILITY

The Navy and NASA encourage interested members of the public and other stakeholders to view the Final EIS. Both the NEPA version and the HEPA version, the latter identifying changes made between the Draft and Final EIS, are available on the project website at [PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com](https://pmrf-kpgo-eis.com). The HEPA Final EIS will also be accessible on the State of Hawai‘i Environmental Review Program website at <https://planning.hawaii.gov/erp/>, the Waimea Public Library on Kaua‘i, and the Hawai‘i Documents Center at the Hawai‘i State Library on O‘ahu.

For more information, visit [PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com](https://pmrf-kpgo-eis.com).

ABOUT PMRF AND KPGO

Located on the southwest coast of Kaua‘i, PMRF is the world’s largest instrumented multidomain training and testing facility and supports Department of Defense activities in surface, subsurface, air, and space domains. The Navy is Kaua‘i’s largest high-technology employer and third-largest employer overall. Most of PMRF’s approximately 900 personnel are civilians, including many members of the local community, and PMRF contributes approximately \$150 million annually in salaries and purchases of contract goods and services to

the local economy. Its operations range from single-unit exercises to large-scale, multiple-unit training events, all of which have been or will be subject to applicable environmental review and compliance requirements.

NASA operates KPGO on a remote ridge within Kōkeʻe State Park to collect geodetic data about the Earth's shape, orientation in space, and gravity. These data support the Global Positioning System, scientific research, spacecraft navigation, and the geolocation of Earth observations. NASA and the Navy share use of portions of KPGO for radar, telemetry, and communications services supporting PMRF operations.

For additional information, visit <https://earth.gsfc.nasa.gov/geo/networks/sgp/sites/kokee-park> and <https://cnrh.cnmc.navy.mil/Installations/PMRF-Barking-Sands/>.

Sincerely,

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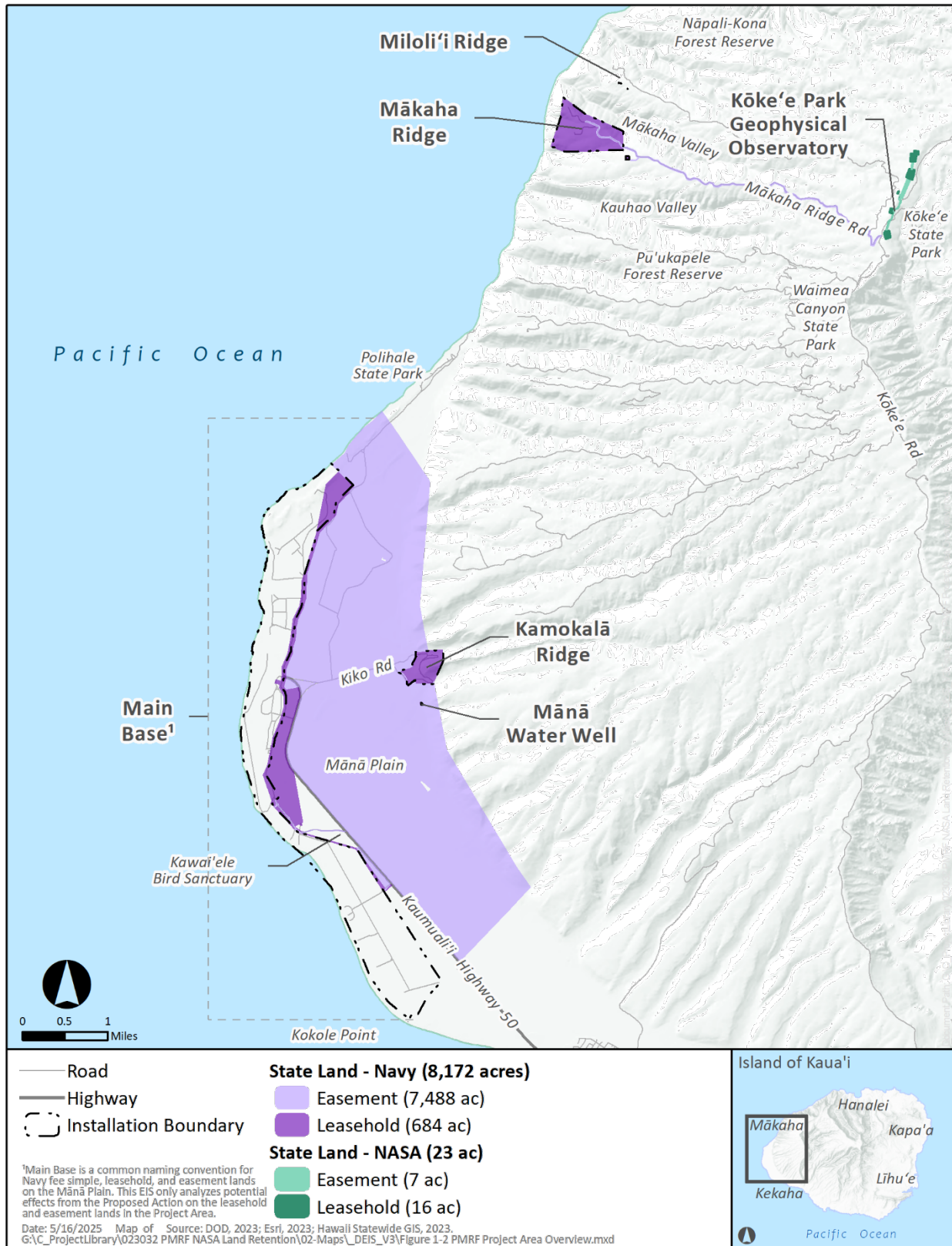
Crystal Gayhart
Director, Management Operations
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Robert Prince
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Pacific Missile Range Facility

Enclosure: (1) Project Location Map
(2) Enhanced Engagement 4: PMRF Kauaʻi

Distribution: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii
Interested Parties Contacted During the Draft EIS Notification, Appendix H
Director, NASA Environmental Management Division
Assistant Administrator, NASA Office of Strategic Infrastructure
Associate Administrator, NASA Mission Support Directorate

Project Location Map



Summer 2026

PMRF Kaua‘i

E Pane Mai Ka Nonoi O Nohili
Answering the Requests of Nohili



Hau‘oli ke kau wela from PMRF!

As we enter the summer season, Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) leadership and staff are proud to continue strengthening the connection between the communities we serve alongside every day. This season presents valuable opportunities to support one another and showcase PMRF's role as a leader in service, collaboration, and mission success.

This edition of the newsletter highlights the balance between military readiness and community involvement. You'll read about how PMRF continues to welcome visiting military units, the public, and school groups to the base, as well as our efforts to engage with and be of service to the people of West Kaua‘i and beyond.

We invite you to stay informed and follow along as we share, inspire, and support partnerships that strengthen both our base personnel and our island community. Thank you for your continued support!

For the latest news from PMRF, please visit our [PMRF Kaua‘i website](#). You can also subscribe to the e-version of our newsletter [here](#).

PMRFKauai.com



Mālama ‘Āina Day at PMRF: Empowering Students Through Hands-On Conservation

On Friday, April 24, 2026, PMRF hosted its annual Mālama ‘Āina Day, an environmental awareness event that brought together fourth grade students from West Kaua‘i. The event recognized PMRF's shared responsibility to protect our island resources, while demonstrating the U.S. Navy's commitment to environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation programs that directly support ongoing mission readiness.

Staff and young learners transformed the Shenanigans parking lot and lawn into a vibrant outdoor classroom. There, PMRF staff biologists and partnering agencies provided interactive learning experiences for more than 190 students in attendance.



Students attempt to lift a ball of plastic waste collected from several debris clean-up efforts in order to guess its weight.

“Planet vs. Plastics”

Aligned with this year's theme, “Planet vs. Plastics,” the hands-on presentations covered various topics such as plastic waste recycling, meteorology, wildlife protection, energy conservation, and more. The activities were designed to support the students' science, energy, and ecology curriculum.

“Seeing the enthusiasm from the students today gives me great confidence in the future of our island's conservation efforts,” said Brooke McFarland, PMRF natural resources manager. “Our work is often behind the scenes, so it was great to pull back the curtain and share this team effort between the Navy and our community partners.”

A Mission Beyond the Fence Line

Mālama ‘Āina Day at PMRF helps set the foundation for developing connections that support critical efforts for environmental protection and compliance throughout the year.

Capt. Robert Prince, PMRF commanding officer, emphasized that environmental stewardship is integral to military operations. “Environmental protection is an everyday mission for us,” Prince said. “It is more than meeting a requirement; it ensures sustainable training environments for our personnel while providing ecological and historical value to the land we share.”