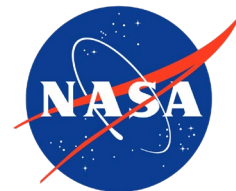




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER, PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER



5090  
Ser N4/0306  
April 30, 2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: U.S. NAVY PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY AND NASA KŌKEʻE  
PARK GEOPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY REAL ESTATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of the Navy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and in coordination with the Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) (Hawaiʻi Administrative Rules [HAR] § 11-200.1-23 (a)(4)).

In the EIS, the Navy and NASA will evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the Navy's and NASA's proposal to retain the use of 8,348 acres and 23 acres, respectively, of State lands presently utilized pursuant to leases and easements on Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi, for operational continuity and sustainment at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), and NASA's continued operations, including measurements of the Earth's rotation and local land motion, at Kōkeʻe Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO). The Proposed Action is needed because the existing real estate agreements for these State lands are set to expire between 2027 and 2030. 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.

For DLNR, in addition to its role as the lessor of State lands, the proposed real estate action presents an opportunity for the agency to secure a revenue source to support its management of public lands and associated environmental and conservation programs. Fees from leases and easements are put into a State fund as required by law.

By ensuring continued Navy and NASA operations on Kauaʻi, the real estate action would also preserve local jobs and income for the residents of Kauaʻi, financially contribute to the overall economic well-being of Kauaʻi, and maintain continued conservation management of natural and cultural resources on State lands at no cost to the State of Hawaiʻi.

The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. The EIS will satisfy both federal and State of Hawaiʻi requirements and provide the necessary analyses to allow the Navy, NASA, and DLNR to consider the environmental effects of the Proposed Action as part of their decision making.

For portions of PMRF, the Navy has lease agreements with the State of Hawai'i 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 of Hawai'i. The majority of the leased and easement areas remain intentionally undeveloped as they are used as an encroachment buffer and security for the range's mission. The Navy's current leases and easements support mission operations, access, and utilities at five general locations: Main Base, Kamokalā Ridge, Mānā Water Well, Miloli'i Ridge, and Mākaha Ridge.

PMRF is the world's largest instrumented multi-domain training and testing facility. PMRF is an essential part of Department of Defense training, research, development, testing, and evaluation. PMRF is unique because of its ability to support simultaneous surface, subsurface, air, and space operations. 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. PMRF supports operations from single-unit exercises to large-scale multiple-unit training events. PMRF is located on the southwest coast of the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i.

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. Continued operation of KPGO is needed to ensure these data-related operations of global and local significance can continue, allowing multiple agencies' missions to persist without interruption. KPGO is located on a remote ridge within Kōke'e State Park in the western portion of Kaua'i. NASA has issued a Use Permit to the Navy for use of portions of KPGO for mission support with radar, telemetry, and communications services.

For more information about KPGO, visit <https://space-geodesy.nasa.gov/NSGN/sites/KPGO/KPGO.html>. For more information about PMRF, visit <https://cnrh.cniv.navy.mil/Installations/PMRF-Barking-Sands/>.

## **PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD**

The Navy and NASA are initiating a public scoping period to receive comments on the scope of the EIS. The Navy and NASA will conduct the public scoping efforts in accordance with NEPA and Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343. The 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 and HRS Section 6E-42.

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.

**The public scoping period for the EIS begins May 8, 2024, and ends June 17, 2024.** The Navy and NASA are requesting public comments for consideration in development of the Draft EIS. Comments are requested to be postmarked by June 17, 2024. Public scoping meetings will be held June 4 to 6, 2024, on the island of Kaua‘i.

For more information, please review the enclosures and visit the project website at **PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com**. If you would like to request a briefing with our Navy and NASA team, please contact the PMRF Public Affairs Officer at **(808) 335-4740** or **PMRFPublicAffairs@us.navy.mil**. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

David A. Reth  
Director, Management Operations  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

B. A. STEVENSON  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
Pacific Missile Range Facility

Enclosures: 1. Public Scoping Meetings and How to Submit Public Scoping Comments  
2. Project Location Map

Distribution: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii  
Commander, Navy Facility Engineering Systems Command Hawaii  
Interested Parties Contacted During Scoping, Appendix C to Environmental  
Impact Statement Preparation Notice for PMRF and KPGO of May 2024

## **Public Scoping Meetings and How to Submit Public Scoping Comments**

### **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Navy and NASA will host public scoping meetings at three locations on Kaua‘i. The public is encouraged to attend any of the public scoping meetings to talk story, learn more, and submit written or oral comments. All meetings will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. HST at the following locations:

#### **Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

Kaua‘i Veterans Center  
3215 Kaua‘i Veterans Memorial Hwy, Līhu‘e

#### **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

Kekaha Neighborhood Center  
8130 Elepaio Rd., Kekaha

#### **Thursday, June 6, 2024**

Sheraton Kaua‘i Coconut Beach Resort  
650 Aleka Loop, Kapa‘a

Meeting Times: 5 to 8 p.m.

Agenda:

- **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.

### **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 visit the project website to learn more. Comments should be related to 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.

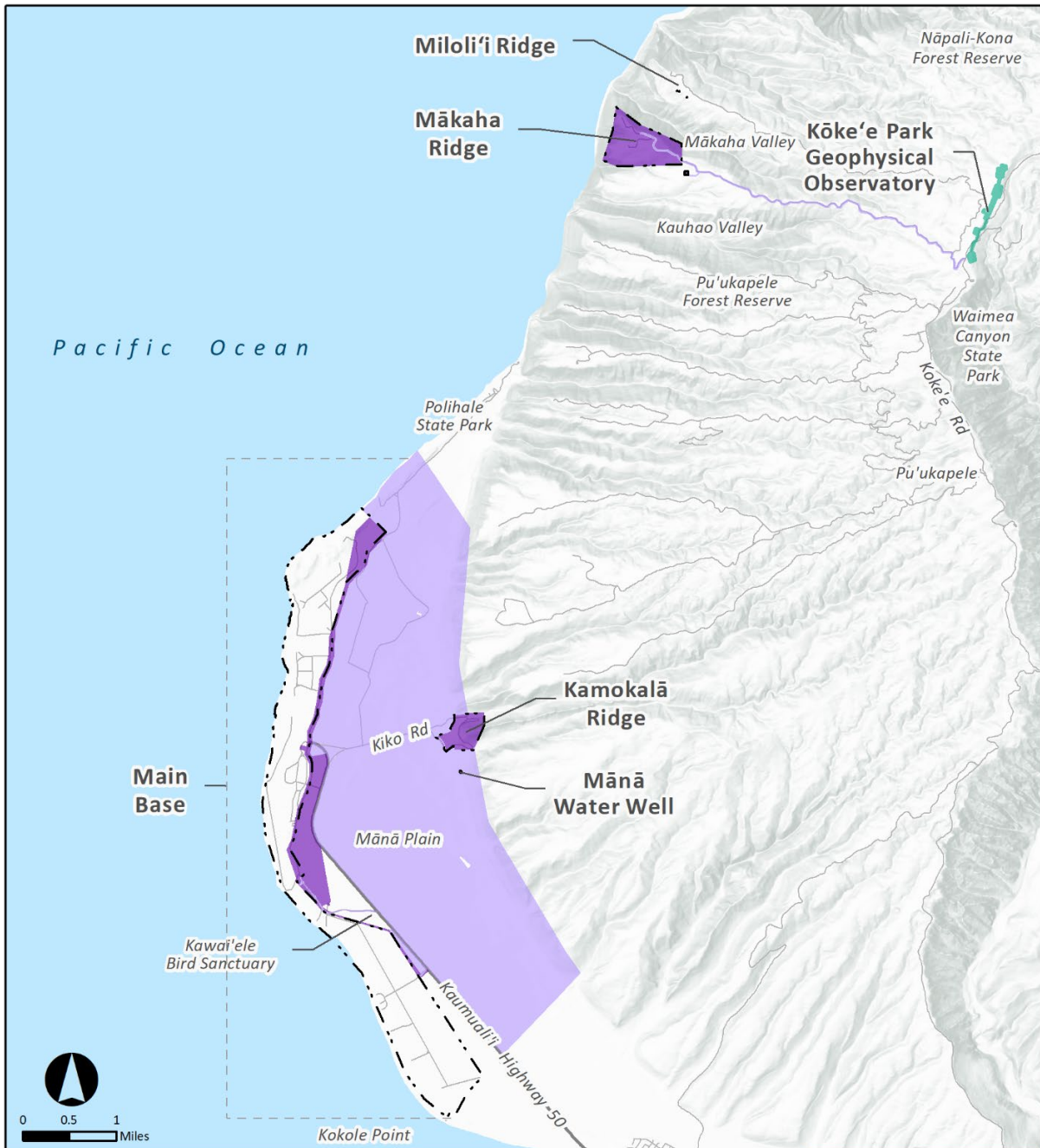
The public may submit comments in any of the following ways:

- 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  
Attn: PMRF and KPGO RE EIS Project Manager, Ms. Kerry Wells  
400 Marshall Road, Building X-11  
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860

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

For language assistance or special accommodations, contact the PMRF Public Affairs Officer at **(808) 335-4740** or **PMRFPublicAffairs@us.navy.mil**. Requests for language assistance or special accommodations should be made at least seven days prior to the public meeting.

## Project Location Map



**Legend**

- Road
- Highway
- ⬡ Installation Boundary

**State Land - Navy (8,348 acres)**

- ⬢ Easement (7,664 ac)
  - ⬢ Leasehold (684 ac)
- State Land - NASA (23 acres)**
- ⬢ Leasehold and Easement (23 ac)

Date: 4/12/2024 Note: ac = acres  
 Source: DOD, 2023; Esri, 2023; Statewide GIS, 2023.

**Island of Kauai**



⬢ Pacific Ocean