

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP) FOR JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM (JBPHH), HAWAII

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Navy (DON) regulations (32 CFR Part 775), the DON gives notice that an EA has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for the adoption and implementation of an INRMP for JBPHH. This action will be implemented as set out in the Preferred Alternative.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to adopt and implement an INRMP for the DON’s JBPHH consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act (16 United States Code [U.S.C.], Section 670a et seq., as amended). This INRMP will be implemented once it is signed by Captain Mark Sohaney, Commander Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Purpose and Need. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the revised JBPHH INRMP, which provides an approach for natural resources management on JBPHH-administered lands that is consistent with the Sikes Act (as amended) as well as the most recent Department of Defense (DoD) and DON policy and guidance regarding INRMPs. The Proposed Action ensures the natural resources are managed in a consistent manner across all the administered lands, which were previously separately managed. The need for the Proposed Action is to provide a comprehensive, adaptive natural resources management approach for all JBPHH properties. Both the INRMP and the natural resources management programs that it supports must meet DoD and DON policy and guidance that collectively require a plan and management approach consistent with mission support (as defined in 10 U.S.C., Section 5062). This would include multipurpose use, integration, ecosystem- or landscape-level management, environmental compliance, and stewardship objectives.

Alternatives Considered: This EA analyzes two alternatives: the No Action Alternative and an Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative) to adopt and implement the 2023 INRMP for JBPHH. Under the No Action Alternative, natural resources would continue to be managed as characterized in the 2011 INRMP for JBPHH. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action since the management goals, objectives, projects, strategies, and actions from the 2011 JBPHH INRMP do not take into account current conditions including changes to regulations. As required by NEPA, the No Action Alternative is carried forward for analysis in this EA to serve as a comparative baseline for analysis.

The Proposed Action is to implement the 2023 JBPHH INRMP, consistent with the DoD use of the JBPHH-administered lands considered in this EA and consistent with the requirements of the Sikes Act (as amended). The JBPHH INRMP has been developed to provide DON with an implementable framework for managing the natural resources on the land and nearshore areas it owns, leases, or controls. Key differences between the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action are that the latter provides: consistent management approach across all JBPHH-administered lands; includes management of species newly listed under the Endangered Species Act; and reflects enhanced agency engagement and coordination, current state of the science, and improved terrestrial and marine resource management.

The EA analyzed the potential impacts of the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative) and No Action Alternative on the quality of the human environment on a programmatic level. As management decisions are made and project plans developed, further NEPA analysis may be necessary.

Environmental Effects: The following is a summary of the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action on resources that are potentially affected by the Proposed Action. Other resources were eliminated from detailed review in compliance with CEQ regulations which state that the lead agency shall eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues in the document to a brief presentation of why they would not have a significant effect on the human or natural environment. Resources that have little to no potential to be affected by the Proposed Action include air quality, geological resources, cultural resources, land use, visual resources, airspace, noise, infrastructure, transportation, public health and safety, hazardous materials and wastes, socioeconomics, and environmental justice.

Water Resources. The Preferred Alternative would be expected to result in benefits to water resources. Wetland delineation and restoration measures, including removal and control of non-native mangroves, would result in beneficial effects to wetlands and water quality. Establishing oyster reefs and controlling invasive algae would also result in improvements to water quality in the marine environment. The most current best management practices would be used when implementing these and other INRMP projects in order to maintain and improve effects to water quality. Therefore, implementation of the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant impacts to water resources.

Biological Resources. The Preferred Alternative would result in benefits to biological resources. Species surveys and monitoring would add to knowledge of species distribution and abundance, ultimately aiding conservation efforts. Control of predators (including rodents, ungulates, and feral animals) and control of invasive and non-native species would reduce potential harm from species that can outcompete native species for resources. Habitat improvements, including debris reduction in the marine environment, revegetation with native plants, wetland restoration, and oyster reef restoration benefit native terrestrial and marine biota by providing habitat that native species require. Activities that result in education and outreach to the public, law enforcement, and recreation personnel would increase stewardship of biological resources. Developing best management practices with the regulators would streamline consultation processes, allowing for timely implementation of measures that would protect threatened and endangered terrestrial and marine species. Marine and aquatic species would also benefit from improved water quality that would result from many INRMP activities. Given the purpose and conservation goals of the proposed projects, no negative impacts to biological resources are expected. Additionally, the use of the most current best management practices in implementing these and other INRMP projects would prevent negative effects to biological resources from ongoing DON and Air Force activities. There would be no significant impact on threatened and endangered species. No formal consultation between the DON and United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would be required. Therefore, implementation of the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant impacts to biological resources.

Public Outreach. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA was published in *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. The Draft EA was made available for public review on the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific website: <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/Facilities-Engineering-Commands/NAVFAC-Hawaii/About-Us/Our-Services/Environmental/>. Hard copies were also made available at the Hawai'i

State Public Library, 478 S King St, Honolulu, and the Salt Lake-Moanalua Library, 3225 Salt Lake Blvd, Honolulu. The public comment period for the Draft EA was from November 20, 2023 through December 20, 2023. No comments were received from the public. An NOA of the Final EA and FONSI will be published in *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser* and copies of the documents will be available at the same locations as the Draft EA.

Finding: Based on the analysis presented in the EA, the DON finds that implementation of the Proposed Action will have no significant impact to the quality of the human environment. The INRMP will improve the quality and management of natural resources at JBPHH, consistent and integrated with the mission. Therefore, an EIS will not be required for this action.

11 April 2024

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.D. Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RDML Stephen Barnett, Commander Navy Region Hawaii