



15 July 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Kaho‘olawe Small Boat Harbor, Kaho‘olawe, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Kaho‘olawe Small Boat Harbor project is in the reconnaissance stage and is located on the island of Kaho‘olawe, Maui County, Hawaii. The study is authorized under Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1970, as amended. The local sponsor is the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). A letter of request to the Honolulu District was issued 15 July 2002. Due to prior lack of available funds, the study start date was delayed until June 2003.

b. Kaho‘olawe is located 94 miles southeast of the island of Oahu and 6 miles southwest of the island of Maui. It is comprised of approximately 28,800 acres and is 7 miles wide and 11 miles long with a peak elevation of 1,477 feet.

c. Large capacity helicopters transport goods and personnel for the Navy’s unexploded ordnance (UXO). Due to the high cost of transportation, the State of Hawaii will conduct UXO detection and environmental restoration activities at a minimal level utilizing helicopters as their main mode of transport. The small boat harbor would allow the State to increase its UXO detection and environmental restoration activities at a much higher level due to the anticipated reduced cost of boat transportation over helicopters.

d. The responsibility of detecting and identifying UXO falls on the State of Hawaii. The State will continue with the “clearance and removal of unexploded ordnance” and environmental restoration of the island to achieve the desired “meaningful safe use of the island for appropriate cultural, historical, archaeological and education purposes.” The feasibility study is expected to be completed in FY05.

3. Congressional Interest. The Hawaii Congressional delegation is interested in the progress of the project, as its potential implementation would affect the objectives of KIRC and cultural restoration of the island.