



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2005

Corps of Engineers RVC presents Partnering In The Pacific Panel Discussion - “Wetlands Preservation in Hawaii”

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 8, 2005 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Location: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pacific Regional Visitor Center, 2nd floor Battery Randolph, in RVC theater area

Parking: Validated parking available at the corner of Kalia and Saratoga Roads, Waikiki (bring ticket to RVC for validation)

This panel discussion presents an opportunity to discuss the science needed to protect wetlands and a more collaborative, partnering approach that integrates agency missions, other agencies and resources, and a holistic management style that considers the entire watershed surrounding a wetland to preserve and restore wetlands not only for acreage, but also functions and values.

This is the fourth in a series of eight Partnering In The Pacific panel discussions and is part of the Pacific Regional Visitor Center's Monthly Educational Seminar program. The monthly seminar objective is to provide a forum for agencies who are actively involved in national and local information exchange on perspectives and issues focusing on USACE water resource projects. Participants interact in an informal setting to review and summarize water resources research, planning and management activities.

In the United States primary legal protection of wetlands is contained in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the *Swampbuster* provision in the Food Security Act and the no net loss policy.

The Corps of Engineers has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of Environmental Operating Principles applicable to all its decision-making and programs. The principles are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Army's Environmental Strategy with its four pillars of prevention, compliance, restoration and conservation, and other environmental statutes and Water Resources Development Acts that govern Corps activities.

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2-2-2 WETLANDS

Panel Discussion Topics include:

Wetland Processes, Biology: David Smith, State of Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program and Civil Works Project Development: Farley Watanabe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Program & Derek Chow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Project Development

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Involvement In Wetland Protection: Wendy Wiltse, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX Water Division, Wetlands Regulatory Office

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs: Terrell Erickson, Natural Resources Conservation Service Pacific Basin Area

National Wildlife Refuges Management in Hawaii: Sylvia Pelizza, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Hawaiian National Wildlife Refuges

Fostering Wetland Volunteerism: Ron Walker, Retired USFWS and State DLNR Wildlife Biologist

Open Discussion

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) is located on the west end of Waikiki, next to the Hale Koa Hotel and on the 2nd floor of historic Battery Randolph at Fort DeRussy, Oahu, Hawaii. Battery Randolph is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and is one of 16 coastal fortifications built by the Corps between 1906 and 1917 for the protection of Honolulu and Pearl harbors. The RVC is a federal civil works project. Construction of the center was completed March 1983 and the center was opened to the public in May 1983. Exhibits and staff at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center are funded by DOD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Army Museum is funded by the Army Garrison Hawaii.

The theme of the regional visitor's center is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Partnering in the Pacific. Exhibits, interpretive presentations and outreach education are designed to stimulate interest and convey information on water resources planning and environmental stewardship. Planning and environmental stewardship calls for a holistic watershed approach and integrates the ahupua`a concept, historic conditions, current issues and future possibilities with our partners to create a sustainable future. Projects comply with Federal, State and local environmental laws and regulations to restore project sites, prevent environmental impacts such as pollution and habitat destruction, and conserve and protect the long-term availability of natural and cultural resources at project sites.

For more information on the Partnering In The Pacific Panel Discussion program please contact Iwalani Sato, Pacific Regional Visitor Center, Civil Works Technical Branch, Honolulu Engineer District at 438-2815 / 438-4112 or email, IwalaniSato@hawaii.rr.com.