

Public Affairs Office Honolulu Engineer District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440 Contact: Joseph Bonfiglio or Dino Buchanan Telephone (808) 438-9862

Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Scoping Meeting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb 25, 2009

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR-05-09) A federal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning project will be held Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the McKinley High School Cafeteria, 1039 South King Street, Honolulu.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Regulatory Branch (Corps) has received a Department of the Army (DA) permit application from Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning, LLC (applicant) to construct a seawater air conditioning system (SWAC) at Kaka'ako on the south shore of O'ahu in order to provide a renewable-energy air conditioning system for downtown Honolulu buildings.

The applicant proposes to construct intake and return pipelines in adjacent coastal waters to utilize available deep, offshore cold seawater for the planned onshore cooling plant. A proposed pipeline staging and assembly area at Keehi Lagoon and the proposed pipeline installation sites at Kaka'ako are located within the navigable waters of the United States and the proposed activity is subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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The Corps is neither for nor against the proposed action. The Corps seeks public input to frame the scope of the DEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The DEIS will be a federal document. Previously, the applicant issued a state-level DEIS for their project. The Corps published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a federal DEIS in the Federal Register on Feb. 17, 2009 and posted a Special Public Notice on Feb. 20, 2009 on its website: www.poh.usace.army.mil.

The Corps invites participation in the EIS process of affected federal, state and local agencies; affected Native Hawaiian organizations, individuals and practitioners; and other interested private organizations and parties.

Comments or suggestions describing specific environmental topics or issues which the commenter believes the DEIS should address may be submitted at the scoping meeting. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Corps at the above address or submitted via email to honoluluswac@usace.army.mil. To be considered in preparation of the DEIS, comments should be received no later than March 20, 2009.

For more information, please contact Peter Galloway, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Bldg 230, Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5440, telephone (808) 438-8416.

For media queries, please contact Honolulu District Public Affairs at (808) 438-9862.