



US Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
BUILDING STRONG®

Public Notice of USACE Feasibility Study NEPA Scoping

Civil and Public Works Branch
230 Otake Street
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Issuance Date: **1 Apr. 2023**
Expiration Date: **1 May 2023**
Project Name: **Honolulu Harbor
Modification
Feasibility Study**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps, USACE) is initiating National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. § 4321) scoping to solicit public, agency, and stakeholder input on the USACE and State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Honolulu Harbor Modification Feasibility Study. The cost-shared study began in September 2022 and is investigating the feasibility of modifications to the harbor to improve navigational efficiencies and increase resiliency pursuant to Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611). As part of the feasibility study, USACE is preparing an integrated feasibility report and appropriate documentation to comply with NEPA and other applicable environmental laws and regulations.

With this notice, the Corps seeks to invite the public to either of two hybrid in-person/virtual public meetings intended to inform stakeholders of the status of the study and opportunities for continued engagement and collaboration on the establishment of the study baseline and evaluation of environmental effects. These meetings will be recorded and posted to the project website (web address provided below) to solicit further comment from interested stakeholders unable to attend the public meetings. Of interest to the Corps and HDOT are identification of resources that may be impacted by modifications to Honolulu Harbor. This initial scoping solicitation for comments is being conducted as a matter of due diligence and to inform the preparation of a draft NEPA document associated with the feasibility study. Concurrent to involving the public, the Corps will pursue interagency coordination on the proposed action.

ACTION AGENCY: Civil and Public Works Branch, Honolulu District, USACE in partnership with HDOT, Harbors Division

LOCATION: Honolulu Harbor, Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Hawaii (21.308261°N, 157.871559°W).

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING FEDERAL PROJECT: Honolulu Harbor is located on the southwestern coast of the island of Oahu. The harbor consists of Fort Armstrong Entrance Channel (4,000 feet long, 500 feet wide, and 45 feet deep); a Main Basin (3,300 feet long, 1,520 feet wide, and 40 feet deep); Kapalama Basin (3,400 feet long, 1,000 feet wide, and 40 feet deep); Kapalama Channel (400 feet wide and 40 feet deep); and a secondary channel, the Kalihi Channel, which is 10,300 feet in length, 400 feet in width, and maintained at a depth of 23 feet.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The USACE-HDOT study will evaluate the feasibility of modifications to the Honolulu Harbor to accommodate the current and future vessel fleet including but not limited to, deepening and/or widening the harbor basins and channels to improve navigational efficiencies and opening a second entrance to the harbor to increase resiliency. The study area is attached to this Public Notice.

ALTERNATIVES: Plan formulation of alternatives began in September 2022; an array of alternatives is under development to meet the intent of the description above. The study team has formulated the following focused array of 5 alternatives: 1) No Action, 2) Deepen Honolulu Harbor, 3) Widen Honolulu Harbor, 4) Second Harbor Entrance Channel, 5) Optimization of Alternatives.

AUTHORITY(S): The Federal project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1905, 1917, 1930 and 1954. The Non-Federal Sponsor is the HDOT, Harbors Division. The authority to fund and conduct this feasibility study is Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611)

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: The Corps is soliciting initial comments from the general public, Federal, State and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties to assist the Corps in the early identification of concerns, potential impacts, relevant effects of past actions and possible alternative actions. Only those comments received during the designated comment and review period will be considered by the Corps in preparation of the draft integrated feasibility report and NEPA document. All comments received will become a part of the administrative record.

Written comment on this public notice must be submitted via conventional mail or electronic mail (e-mail).

Comments sent by conventional mail should include your name, return mailing address, phone number, and reference to "Honolulu Harbor Modification Feasibility Study Scoping" and be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District
Civil and Public Works Branch (CEPOH-PPC)
230 Otake Street
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Comments sent by e-mail may be sent to: HonoluluHarborMod@usasce.army.mil.

To be accepted, all comments, whether transmitted by conventional mail or e-mail, must be received by our office during the **30 day comment period beginning April 1, 2023 and ending on May 1, 2023.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT: The public is invited to attend one of the following two scheduled information events hosted jointly by the Corps and HDOT:

Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 5pm - 6:30pm HST, and
Friday, March 31, 2023 at 5pm - 6:30pm

You may join either of the meetings in the following ways:

- 1) In-person in Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Hawaii:
Homer A. Maxey International Trade Resource Center Conference Room
521 Ala Moana Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96813
- 2) Virtual attendance using the WebEx online platform:
<https://usace1.webex.com/meet/jessie.k.paahana>
- 3) By phone, audio only, dial:
U.S. Toll free: 1 (844) 800-2712
Access code: 1995 33 9315

The Corps will present the study, accept public comment and answer questions to the best of our ability during this event. The same information will be presented at both meetings. The meetings will be recorded and posted to the study website for future reference.

This event coincides with the comment and review period; comments received at this event will be incorporated into the draft NEPA document, will inform further development and evaluation of the alternatives and will become a part of the administrative record. Comments submitted in response to, but not at this event, must follow the submittal procedures described above for written comments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Current study information is available to the public online at the Honolulu Harbor Modification Feasibility Study Website at <https://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Civil-Works-Projects/Honolulu-Harbor-Modification/>

On the study website, you may also register to be added to the stakeholder mailing list to receive electronic notification of opportunities for continued engagement

This public notice is issued by the Chief, Civil and Public Works Branch, Honolulu District, USACE.

Attachment