

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
Nawiliwili Harbor Maintenance Dredging  
Kauai, Hawaii**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has selected the following action and assessed the environmental effects of said action:

**Maintenance Dredging within the Federal Project Limits of Nawiliwili Harbor, minus Excluded Areas.**

The Corps proposes to conduct maintenance dredging of the Federal entrance channel and harbor basin for the purpose of maintaining safe and efficient navigation within this harbor. The Federal project at Nawiliwili Harbor was last dredged in 1999. Dredging would be limited to areas where the current depth of the Federal project is shallower than the design depth.

Areas within the Federal project that would be excluded from the proposed dredging include: all corners to a distance of 200 feet (e.g., Pier 1), within 30 feet of the rock/boulder habitat structure along the eastern side of the outer breakwater that supports 1 to 10 percent coral cover, as identified and recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and within 30 feet of the pavement habitat outside the breakwater at the southern edge of the entrance channel that supports 1 to 10 percent coral cover, as identified and recommended by the USFWS.

Dredging would be carried out by the Corps trailing suction hopper dredge *Essayons*. Dredged material would be disposed of at the Nawiliwili Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) as approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Up to 194,289 cubic yards of material would be dredged. Dredging is scheduled for approximately 15 days between February and April, 2016 and during the same approximate period in 2018.

In addition to avoiding and minimizing impacts to the environment by establishing the excluded areas described above, the Corps has adopted numerous best management practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts on the environment. These BMPs are described in detail in the attached environmental assessment (EA), and focus on minimizing the effects of dredging on water quality and the benthic environment, and reducing the risk to marine animals of ship-strikes or entrainment by the dredge equipment. The action will be timed to avoid dredging during coral spawning season (mid-May through August).

The project and reasonable alternatives are addressed in the EA. As concluded in the assessment, the action will not substantially impact local and regional biological resources such as fish, marine vegetation and invertebrates, birds, sea mammals, endangered or threatened species, essential fish habitat, or commercial fisheries; water quality; cultural resources including historic

properties; socioeconomic conditions, to include those of children, minority or economically disadvantaged populations; public health and safety; recreation and transportation. The action will not act in association with past, present or anticipated future actions to cause appreciable cumulative impacts. The action is consistent with community planning objectives and with regional coastal management planning.

**NEPA Determination:** I find that maintenance dredging of the Federal maintenance dredging project at Nawiliwili Harbor, Kauai, Hawaii, will not cause significant impacts to the human or natural environment and that the substantive requirements of NEPA have been satisfied. Analysis of the project's effects demonstrates that an environmental impact statement is not required.

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District Engineer

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