

Questions & Responses
Kaunakakai Virtual Public Information Meeting
August 24, 2021

What work will be done by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at Kaunakakai Harbor?

RESPONSE: The Corps is proposing to perform maintenance dredging at Kaunakakai Harbor to restore the harbor to the authorized depth of -23ft Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), to allow for safe navigation within the harbor. Maintenance dredging work will be done by a contractor to remove approximately 35,000 cubic yards of silt, sand and clay that has accumulated at the bottom of the harbor and created shallow areas within the harbor. Maintenance dredging will not include deepening or expanding the limits of the harbor.

When was this area last dredged?

RESPONSE: 1973

Is this a deep draft harbor?

RESPONSE: Yes, with an authorized depth of -23 ft MLLW, Kaunakakai Harbor is a deep draft harbor. Harbors deeper than 15 ft deep are deep draft harbors.

Where will dredging be done?

RESPONSE: Work will be restricted to areas within the Federal channel limits of Kaunakakai Harbor. See harbor map identifies these Federal channel limits in black and areas to be dredged in red.

Will dredging be done from land or a barge?

RESPONSE: Dredging operations will be done from a barge.

Where will dredged materials be disposed of (land or ocean)?

RESPONSE: Dredge material will be disposed in the ocean, offshore at Kahului Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site, located 38 miles away, north of Maui.

Will the crane barge also have a towing tug in Kaunakakai Harbor?

RESPONSE: It will be up to the discretion of the Contractor whether to use multiple tugs for the scow barge and the crane barge. We anticipate at least one tug to provide assistance to barges.

What is the dredging intended to accommodate?

RESPONSE: The harbor is intended to accommodate commercial barges.

Does this mean cruise ships can now come in or large ships directly from the mainland and bypass the need for barging goods from Oahu?

RESPONSE: No, this project will only restore the original depth of the harbor. Work is limited to removing sediment that has settled on the channel bottom, within the federal limits, to provide

safe navigation to currently calling vessels. No new work, to include deepening or widening of the harbor, will be done.

Will additional vessels be allowed/enabled to enter the harbor because of the dredging?

RESPONSE: No, this project will only restore the original depth of the harbor. Work is limited to removing sediment that has settled on the channel bottom, within the federal limits, to provide safe navigation to currently calling vessels. No new work, to include deepening or widening of the harbor, will be done.

Will Harbor Clients/Recreational Boaters be able to access the boat ramp and/or west side berth during construction?

RESPONSE: Yes, access will remain open for recreational boaters. It is recommended that boaters monitor the US Coast Guard Notice to Mariners to determine locations of dredging at a given time.

What criteria determined the need for this project?

RESPONSE: The Corps monitors harbor depths (through routine surveys) to determine when dredging is required to maintain safe and efficient navigation by calling vessels.

Will this project be funded by the recent federal infrastructure bill/funding?

RESPONSE: No, funding for this work was received prior to the infrastructure bill under an emergency supplemental bill in 2019.

Will there be impacts to the shoreline and the canoe club activities and the swimming activities of the kids near the harbor?

RESPONSE: No, there are no anticipated impacts near the shoreline or near the swimming areas by the small boat harbor.

Can you help these activities by taking some of the mud that are already there because of the harbor?

RESPONSE: No, the Corps' authority is limited to dredging within the Federal channel limits.

Will an Environmental Assessment be conducted?

RESPONSE: No, an Environmental Assessment will not be done. This action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act since it is a maintenance action but will comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.

What are all the opportunities for the public to provide feedback/testimony?

RESPONSE: The Coastal Zone Management Consistency Process review was published on August 23, 2021 in the State Environmental Review Program (<https://health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/>) publication, "The Environmental Notice." The public review and comment period will run through September 7, 2021. Any comments received will be forwarded to our office.

We have a huge limu gorilla ogo problem will this increase the impacts these limu are having on us?

RESPONSE: No, there will be no changes to limu during this project. Gorilla ogo (*Gracilaria salicornia*) grows within the reef flats in shallow waters and not within the federal harbor limits, where dredging will be performed. The contractor will be implementing best management practices, such as using clean machinery and sediment curtains, to prevent the transfer of invasive species and ensure turbidity will remain within the dredge footprint.

How does the Corps take into consideration the limu (seaweed) gathering when proposing to dredge a federal navigation channel, such as Kaunakakai?

RESPONSE: Limu is typically gathered along the shoreline in shallow water. The maintenance dredging is located within marine waters, approximately 1800 feet (1/3 mile) from the shoreline. The contractor will be implementing best management practices, such as silt curtains surrounding the active dredging area, will ensure that turbidity will remain within the dredge footprint. As such, the Corps does not anticipate any impacts to limu gathering.