



US Army Corps of Engineers  
Honolulu District  
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## Public Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Waiahole Reservoirs (Reservoirs 155 and 225) Rehabilitation

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

Public Notice Date: April 14, 2023  
Expiration Date: May 14, 2023 (30 days)  
Corps Project: **Hawaii Water Management  
Waiāhole Reservoir System Reservoirs 155  
and 225 Improvements Project**

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**LOCATION:** Reservoir 155 is a regulated dam located within agricultural fields approximately 1.0 mile west of Kunia Road (State Route 750), on Plantation Road in Kunia, Island of Oahu, Hawaii, on Tax Map Key (TMK) (1) 9-2-001:020. Reservoir 225 is located on Robinson Kunia Land, LLC agricultural fields, on the eastern side of Kunia Road; Kunia, Island of Oahu, Hawaii on TMK (1) 9-4-003:001. Borrow sites are located on ADC land on TMKs (1) 7-1-012:001 and (1) 7-1-001:005 in Wahiawa, Island of Oahu, Hawaii.

**BACKGROUND AND AUTHORITY:** The Waiahole Ditch Irrigation System was constructed between 1912 and 1916 to irrigate sugarcane fields on the western side of Oahu and consists of a 26-mile-long transmission system of ditches, tunnels, siphons, and reservoirs that provides a source of irrigation water to local farmers from the windward side of the island of Oahu. The State of Hawaii Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), an attached agency to the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), operates and maintains the Waiahole Ditch Irrigation System, including two reservoirs within the system: Reservoirs 155 and 225, both of which are unlined, earthen storage basins used to store irrigation water for adjacent farmers and are fed directly by the Waiahole Ditch. These reservoirs have lost holding capacity due to years of sediment accumulation.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that each reservoir meets dam safety criteria. Reservoir 155 is classified as a high hazard, small dam due to the following factors: a total height of 25 ft (ft), a holding capacity greater than 50 acre-feet (ac-ft), and potential downstream impacts in the event of a failure. Per the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 13-190.1, a "high hazard" dam classification is defined as that in which the failure of the dam or reservoir will result in probable loss of human life. Reservoir 225 is not currently listed as a regulated dam. However, recent

calculations show that Reservoir 225 exceeds a capacity of 50 ac-ft, which would result in the reservoir being listed as a regulatory dam and require Hawaii Department of Lands and Natural Resources to take jurisdiction over the reservoir. To meet this purpose the water storage capacities of Reservoir 155 and Reservoir 225 would both be reduced. In addition, the reservoirs would be lined to reduce water losses and leakage in the system.

The Proposed Action is authorized under Section 1(a)(4) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001 (Public Law 106-554, Appendix D, Chapter 5 (114 STAT 2763A-190)), which authorized and directed use of \$2 million of appropriated Construction General Funds to initiate design and construction of the Hawaii Water Management Project, which includes the Waiahole Ditch Irrigation System. The 905(b) Report (USACE 2002) was approved by Headquarters USACE on February 12, 2003, allowing implementation of design and construction of repairs and rehabilitation of publicly owned irrigation systems to the extent of the funds appropriated.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE:** An Environmental Assessment (EA) was published in November 2017 for this project. Since that publication, the location of the borrow sites and staging areas have changed. This document updates the 2017 EA by addressing current USACE environmental assessment requirements and documenting the environmental effects of the currently proposed action and Area of Potential Effect (APE). The original contents of the 2017 EA are incorporated by reference. In accordance with NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6- Public Involvement), the Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties on the draft Integrated Feasibility Report. Comments will be accepted from April 14, 2023 to May 14, 2023.

**ACTION AGENCY:** Ms. Rhiannon Kucharski, Chief, Civil and Public Works Branch, Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Building 230, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

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**COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD:** The Corps is soliciting comments on the draft supplemental EA from the general public, Federal, State and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. Any comments received will be acknowledged. Only those comments received during the designated comment and review period will be considered by the Corps in preparation of any final NEPA document. All comments received will become a part of the administrative record.

The draft EA is available for public review, and the 2017 final EA is available for reference on the Honolulu District website at <https://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Civil-Works-Projects/Hawaii-Water-Management-Waiahole/>

Comments on this public notice must be made in writing and 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 “Waiahole Reservoir System Reservoirs 155 and 225 Improvements Project” and be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District  
Civil and Public Works Branch (CEPOH-PPC)  
Attn: Marian Dean  
Building 230  
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Comments sent by e-mail may be sent to [CEPOH-Planning@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEPOH-Planning@usace.army.mil). If using email, you must include reference to “Waiahole Reservoir System Reservoirs 155 and 225 Improvements Project” in the subject heading of the email along with your name, mailing address and phone number. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author’s e-mail account.

All comments, whether transmitted by conventional mail or e-mail, must be received by our office by 5:00 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time on **May 14, 2023**.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Current study information is available to the public online at the Hawaii Water Management Website at <https://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Civil-Works-Projects/Hawaii-Water-Management-Waiahole/>

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.

Attachment