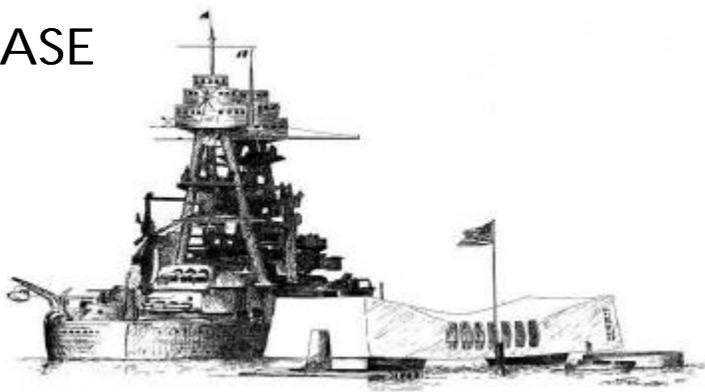


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Lt. Cmdr Jane Campbell

July 13, 2001
RELEASE #24-01

Ford Island Development Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Available for Public Review

The Navy announces the public availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Ford Island Development, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The notice will appear in the July 13, 2001 issue of the Federal Register, and is also being advertised in the *Honolulu Advertiser* and *Honolulu Star Bulletin* on July 13, 14 and 15. The Draft PEIS is being made available to the public for review and comment and will be the subject of public hearings to be held on August 1 and 2, 2001.

The development of Ford Island supports the Navy's long-range objectives to centralize operations in the Pearl Harbor area. Such objectives target overall efficiency, our desire to modernize facilities, and our need to reduce maintenance costs and congestion throughout the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex. Specific goals include improving operational and administrative facilities, and providing additional high-quality family housing and community support services in close proximity where our Sailors work. These initiatives will reduce commuting distances, improve working conditions, and – in general – improve the quality of our Sailors' lives.

The Navy recognizes and appreciates the historical significance and importance of Pearl Harbor and Ford Island, and pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), is seeking public comment and input on historic preservation issues as part of the

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public hearing process under the National Environmental Preservation Act. This is in addition to ongoing consultations with the State Historical Preservation Officer and the American Council for Historic Preservation as well as numerous private party historic, cultural and environmental preservation special interest groups.

Ford Island legislation (10 USC §2814) permits the Navy to sell or lease unused or underutilized Navy properties throughout Oahu and to use the proceeds (in cash or in kind) for construction, repair, maintenance, preservation and adaptive re-use of facilities on Ford Island. Several outlying Navy lands on Oahu have been identified as available for potential development opportunities: portions of Navy retained property at the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point (675 acres); the former Naval Magazine at Waikele (615 acres); lease of 1,468 Navy family housing units at Iroquois Point and Puuloa; and lease of 6.9 acres at Halawa Landing.

The legislation also allows for potential private sector activities on Ford Island. Up to 75 acres on Ford Island are proposed for private sector opportunities through a lease agreement. However, any and all development must be compatible with the historic sense of place, and each private use proposal will be carefully evaluated to ensure historic preservation measures are appropriately addressed. Any private sector development must also comply with security requirements, including the Navy's anti-terrorism/force protection criteria.

Two public hearings will be held to receive oral and written comments on the Draft PEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and to request public input as part of the Section 106 process of the NHPA. The first public meeting will be held on August 1, at 7:00 p.m., at the Aliamanu Intermediate School Cafeteria, 3271 Salt Lake Boulevard, Honolulu, HI. The second meeting will be held on August 2, at 7:00 p.m., at the Washington Middle School Cafeteria, 1633 South King Street, Honolulu, HI.

The Draft PEIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and special interest groups. The Draft PEIS is available for public review at the following public libraries:

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Hawaii State Library
478 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Salt Lake/Moanalua Public Library
3225 Salt Lake Boulevard
Honolulu, Hawaii

Aiea Public Library
99-143 Moanalua Road
Aiea, Hawaii

Pearl City Public Library
1138 Waimano Home Road
Pearl City, Hawaii

Waipahu Public Library
94-275 Mokuola Street
Waipahu, Hawaii

Ewa Beach Public Library
91-950 North Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

For more information on the development of Ford Island, please visit the Ford Island Development Web site at www.hawaii.navy.mil.

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