

My name is Ru and I live in Honaunau, West Hawaii. I come here as a voice for those who cannot be here tonight, and that includes thousands of people who live in and near Kailua-Kona, Captain Cook, Kealekekua and Honaunau. I come as a voice for the creatures in the ocean who cannot defend themselves against this plan. I tried to read the draft EIS, but how does one go through 838 pages in two days? My understanding of the draft EIS means that the the Navy wishes to step up testing on land and in the sea around our islands and off the coast of Southern California. I am not alone when I say NO to this plan.

What the Navy proposes is basically a death sentence to countless beings in and around Hawaiian waters. According to one of the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statements, the sonar sound field around the transmitting ship will be 180 dB up to 1 mile away and 150-160 dB up to 100 miles. This means that many marine animals will be exposed to LFA sonar levels capable of causing stranding and lung hemorrhaging over large areas of the ocean. I am not alone when I say NO to this plan.

Hawaii's tourism depends on the sea. Many boats bring hundreds of people a day from Honakahau Harbor out to spend time with dolphins and catch glimpses of humpback whales, pilot whales, false killer whales, turtles, manta rays, sharks and more. The lure of the dolphins stretches all around the globe and groups spend vast sums of money here in the islands BECAUSE of their desire to be around dolphins. It should be noted that back in the 90's when sonar testing was present off of Kona, people went into the water & developed nerve damage shortly afterwards. Marine mammals are no different, if not more sensitive. Everybody knows, including the Navy, that sonar is deadly. I am not alone when I say NO to this plan.

The National Marine Fisheries Act granted the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals and Humpback Whales protection. By granting the Navy permission to play war games & Low Frequency Sound Testing in Hawaiian waters or Anywhere puts marine life in danger. The Navy's plan has the potential to harm & even kill the already low numbers of Monk Seals, and harm or kill Humpback Whales and their young who are born in Hawaiian waters. I am not alone when I say NO to this plan.

Equally important, LFA sonar levels also affect fish, and business and family fishermen could be affected. This in turn translates to reduced state and federal taxes.

I understand that the Navy wants to test new equipment, new weapons, new ways of killing for the defense of this nation. But don't we already have enough fire power to destroy the world many times over? I am not alone when I say NO to this plan.