

1 SHARON HETTEMA

6 MS. HETTEMA: My name is Sharon Hettema, and I'm
7 speaking for my family and for Malu 'Aina and my fellow
8 peace vigilists.

9 My main concern is for the safety and continued
10 existence of marine mammals and the effect of sonar and
11 also the mine-sweeping things that are towed behind
12 helicopters or other ships. The main means of navigation
13 for all whales, dolphins, turtles, even birds is the
14 subject of many studies recently, and a lot is still not
15 known. But it is predominantly by sonar and by
16 electromagnetic fields that birds migrate and whales
17 migrate.

18 Hawaii has a very large sanctuary for whales.
19 Whales come here in the winter and calve and raise their
20 babies and then go back to the Northwest and Alaska. All
21 of that traveling goes through areas where the Navy has
22 ships, the Navy has testing that is going to, I feel,
23 adversely affect the ability of these marine mammals to
24 navigate. Many of these marine mammals are endangered.

25 From the information that I saw in the posters
1 outside, it is believed by the Navy that this effect of the
2 magnetic field is temporary. They don't really know how
3 far this magnetic field affects the mammals. They're
4 assuming that because most of this is done in the depths,
5 deep depths, that it's not going to affect marine mammals
6 who are calving in the area because they stay in shallower
7 water.

8 I am not sure that this is a scientifically
9 sound reasoning. And with the effect of the sonar and the
10 effect of the explosions, I just feel it's too much of a
11 risk on endangered species and healthy marine mammals to be

12 continued in an area that is protected.