



**The Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii**

Since 1850

14 June 2012

HSTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager-EV21 CS
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest
1220 Pacific Highway Building 1, Floor 3
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

To The Project Manager:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and its Military Affairs Council are in full support of the recommendation to adopt Alternative 2 (preferred alternative) as outlined in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Activities, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, dated 12 May 2012.

The rising security concerns in the Asia Pacific region have required the US to step up its security and foreign policy strategies to deter and contain military aggression. Moreover, more than 50% of the world's commerce and trade flows through the region and any breakdown in security would serve to seriously threaten the economies of the US and our Asia Pacific partners.

Based on our review of the EIS/OEIS, it is our understanding that Alternative 2 provides for consolidating three previously approved environmental documents into one planning document. This reassessment would provide for reauthorizing previous approvals granted under the Marine Mammal Act (MMA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Alternative 2 further provides for the expansion of Study Area boundaries and specifies adjustments in the location, types, and tempo of training and testing activities.

We believe that the actions proposed in the EIS/OEIS satisfy the requirements outlined in the NEPA, MMA, and ESA, and would enable the US Navy to satisfactorily meet the requirements placed on the 21st century naval force.

We are not clear on NEPA procedures, but The Chamber suggests that the Navy seek written concurrences of federal agencies that are responsible for monitoring compliance with the NEPA, MMA, ESA, and other governing regulations. We believe that this validation is essential to demonstrating to the public that the governing agencies agree that the US Navy has satisfactorily met the requirements established in federal laws prior to the rendering of a Record of Decision.

Sincerely,

Jim Tollefson
President & CEO