



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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Gray's Beach Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Scoping Meeting

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
By Honolulu District Public Affairs**

December 8, 2008

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR-43-08) A federal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed Gray's Beach Restoration project will be held Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Waikiki Community Center, 310 Paoakalani Avenue, Honolulu.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Regulatory Branch (Corps) has received a Department of the Army (DA) permit application from the proponent Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts LP (applicant) to construct a stable, sandy beach seaward of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

The applicant proposes to construct three T-head groins extending seaward from the existing seawall which defines the hotel property boundary, and to pump sand from nearby marine deposits and place it between the groins to form a protected beach. The project site is located within the navigable waters of the United States and the proposed activity is subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps invites participation in the EIS process of affected federal, state and local agencies; affected Native Hawaiian organizations, individuals and practitioners; and other interested private organizations and parties.

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The Corps is neither for nor against the proposed action. The Corps is seeking public input to frame the scope of the DEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The DEIS will be a combined federal and state document. Previously, the applicant issued a state-level EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) for their project. The Corps published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a federal DEIS in the Federal Register on November 17, 2008 and posted a Special Public Notice on November 26, 2008 at its website: www.poh.usace.army.mil.

All comments received in response to the state EISPN, the NOI, and the Special Public Notice will be considered when determining the scope of the combined federal and state DEIS. To the extent practicable, federal and state requirements will be coordinated in the preparation of the joint document.

For more information, please contact Peter Galloway, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Bldg. 230, Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5440, telephone (808) 438-8416.

Comments or suggestions describing specific environmental topics or issues which the commenter believes the DEIS should address may be submitted at the scoping meeting. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Corps at the above address or submitted via email to graysbeach@usace.army.mil. To be considered in preparation of the DEIS, comments should be received no later than January 16, 2009.

For media queries, please contact Honolulu District Public Affairs at (808) 438-9862.

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