

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:  
South Kohala, HI**

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in South Kohala, Hawaii.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Abraham Wong, Hawaii Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Office Address: 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-306, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, Mailing Address: Box 50206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850, Telephone: (808) 541-2700.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA in cooperation with the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Highways Division, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new highway from Waimea Town to Kawaihae Harbor. The project will provide improved highway, approximately 14 miles in length, which will facilitate the movement of goods and people between Central and West Hawaii. The new highway would also be supportive of anticipated heavier traffic demands and special needs, including the movement of military and commercial truck traffic.

In addition to several highway alignments, the project will analyze various other alternatives, including: (1) no action and (2) transportation system management strategies.

A letter describing the proposed action and soliciting comments has been sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, and to private organizations and individuals, who have expressed an interest in this project. Several interagency and public scoping meetings will soon be scheduled. A public hearing will be held after publication of the project's draft EIS; public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. In addition, the draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the above address.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: November 12, 2002.

**Abraham Wong,**

*Division Administrator, Hawaii.*

[FR Doc. 02-30270 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration****Office of Research and Technology Forum**

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting/forum.

**SUMMARY:** This notice invites interested persons to participate in a forum sponsored by the FMCSA Office of Research and Technology for the purpose of: Sharing information regarding the FMCSA new research approach; Learning how to establish partnerships with the agency's Office of Research and Technology on future projects; and Providing information on the accomplishments of the Research and Technology Office since last year's Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting.

*Where:* Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, in the Delaware Room, 2660 Woodley Road, NW., Washington, DC 20008.

*When:* Sunday, January 12, 2003, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Registration:* To register for the forum and obtain more detailed information, you may visit the FMCSA R&T Forum Web site at: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rtforum>; or call (202) 493-0442.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Albert Alvarez, Office of Research and Technology (MC-RTR), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024; telephone (202) 358-5684 or e-mail [albert.alvarez@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:albert.alvarez@fhwa.dot.gov). Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Forum attendees will receive a Continental Breakfast and a Information Packet. The forum is open to the public, but will be limited to the space available. If you are planning to attend this forum, you *must* register online at: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rtforum>, or call (202) 493-0442 by *December 20, 2002*.

Individuals needing special accommodations (sign, reader, etc.), please call Joalice Cole at (202) 334-2287, or e-mail [jcole@nas.edu](mailto:jcole@nas.edu) by *December 20, 2002*.

**Note:** If you are planning to attend the TRB Annual Meeting, you must register separately for it at: <http://www4.trb.org/trb/annual.nsf>.

Issued on: November 25, 2002.

**Brian M. McLaughlin,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development.*

[FR Doc. 02-30312 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission****Notice of Establishment**

As required by section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the establishment of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has determined that establishing the Commission is both necessary and in the public interest.

The Commission will conduct a nationwide review to determine VA's capability to support the delivery of veterans health care services through the next 20 years and will make specific recommendations to the Secretary regarding the realignment and allocation of capital assets necessary to provide such services. In making its recommendations, the Commission will focus on the accessibility and cost effectiveness of care to be provided, while ensuring that the integrity of VA's health care and related missions is maintained, and any adverse impact on VA staff and affected communities is minimized.

The Commission will consider recommendations submitted by the VA Under Secretary for Health and will also consider other views and concerns submitted in writing during a 60-day period following the Under Secretary's recommendations. The Commission will also hold public hearings to receive and consider the views and recommendations of veterans service organizations, Congress, medical school affiliates, VA employees, local government entities, affected community groups and other interested parties.

The Commission shall consist of members appointed by the Secretary. Those members shall serve as objective advisors to the Secretary. The Commission shall submit its recommendations to the Secretary not later than September 30, 2003, unless that date is extended by the Secretary.

Dated: November 22, 2002.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Ronald R. Aument,**

*Deputy Chief of Staff.*

[FR Doc. 02-30300 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service will be held at the Safety Harbor Resort, 105 North Bay Shore Drive, Safety Harbor, Tampa, FL 34695, from January 22-24, 2003. The Nursing Research Initiative (NRI) review will convene on January 22, 2003, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Investigator Initiated Research (IIR) review will convene from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on January 22, 2003, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on January 23, 2003, and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on January 24, 2003.

The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are prepared for the

Chief Research and Development Officer.

The Investigator Initiated Research review meeting will be open to the public on January 22 for approximately one half-hour from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly the implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who plan to attend the open session should contact the Assistant Director, Scientific Review (124F), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 1400 Eye Street, NW., Suite 780, Washington, DC, at least five days before the meeting. For further information, call (202) 408-3661.

Dated: November 19, 2002.

By Director of the Secretary.

**Nora E. Egan,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 02-30194 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Poverty Threshold

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the weighted average poverty threshold established for 2001 for one person (unrelated individual) as established by the Bureau of the Census. The amount is \$9,039.

**DATES:** For VA determinations, the 2001 poverty threshold is effective September 24, 2002, the date on which it was established by the Bureau of the Census.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We published a final rule amending 38 CFR 4.16(a) in the **Federal Register** of August 3, 1990, 55 FR 31,579. The amendment provided that marginal employment generally shall be deemed to exist when a veteran's earned annual income does not exceed the amount established by the Bureau of the Census as the poverty threshold for one person. The provisions of 38 CFR 4.16(a) use the poverty threshold as a standard in defining marginal employment when considering total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of an individual. We stated we would publish subsequent poverty threshold figures as notices in the **Federal Register**.

The Bureau of the Census recently published the weighted average poverty thresholds for 2001. The threshold for one person (unrelated individual) is \$9,039.

Dated: November 20, 2002.

**Anthony J. Principi,**

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 02-30193 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**