

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS INTRODUCTION

The Deputy Secretary of Defense signed the “Consultation with Native Hawaiian Organizations” policy on February 3, 2011. This policy was developed in recognition of DoD’s consultation responsibilities to NHOs as required by Federal law, regulation, and policy when there are DoD activities that may affect a property or place of traditional religious and cultural importance to NHOs.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense worked closely with the Headquarters of the Military Departments; other Department of Defense (DoD) Components; the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Pacific Command; the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) to develop the policy. The signed policy reflects input DoD gathered at a series of meetings and workshops with Native Hawaiian Organizations held in Honolulu, Maui, Hilo, Pu’ukahola Heiau, Kona, and Kauai. DoD also considered the advice of other federal agencies, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of the Interior, because of their prior experience with policy development and consultation with NHOs. Additionally, DoD reviewed oral and written comments and recommendations from NHOs, Military Departments, and DoD agencies throughout the policy development process.

DoD believes that the policy will enhance DoD’s working relationship with NHOs as required by law. The policy sets standards regarding when and how to consult regarding DoD’s proposed activities and operations that may have an effect on NHOs. DoD hopes also that the policy will help build mutual awareness and understanding between DoD and Native Hawaiian Organizations regarding the military mission and the concerns of Native Hawaiian Organizations.

DoD respects the traditions and cultures of all native peoples of the United States, and the strong desire of Native Hawaiians to maintain their rich history and tradition amidst other prevalent influences in American society. DoD recognizes the special status afforded NHOs through various Federal laws, regulations, and policy.

Information concerning the workshops, meetings, and conferences involved in the policy development process follow.