



5 December 2008

## **INFORMATION PAPER**

SUBJECT: Mā‘alaea Harbor, Maui, Hawai‘i

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Mā‘alaea Harbor project was authorized under Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended, for navigational improvements at the harbor. The Mā‘alaea Harbor improvements project is in the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase. The local sponsor is the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DBOR).

b. Mā‘alaea Harbor is situated on the southwest coast of Maui, Hawai‘i. The harbor was first developed by the Territory of Hawai‘i in 1952 and later modified by the Territory and State of Hawai‘i in 1955, 1959, and 1979. During south swells, ingress and egress from the Harbor is impaired. The project objective is to improve navigational access by realigning the entrance channel and modifying/extending the breakwater to attenuate surge within the harbor thus eliminating damage to vessels. These improvements will also allow the local sponsor to safely develop the interior of the harbor basin and double the existing berthing capacity – currently at 93 vessels – to potentially 220 vessels. (See attached map.)

c. The community and environmental groups raised concerns in 1982 and 1998 that the proposed project design may potentially destroy the “Mā‘alaea Pipeline” surf break, and may adversely impact coral resources, humpback whales, sea turtles and other protected marine species. Construction of the project was delayed as a result. Since 1998, the Corps has been evaluating measures to reconfigure the project features and minimize impacts to environmental and recreation resources.

d. The feasibility study was completed in 1967 and PED phase initiated in 1979. A General Design Memorandum and draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) were completed in 1982. A second draft SEIS was completed in 1998. Initial construction funds were provided by Congressional add in fiscal year 1990. A physical model study completed in 2001 demonstrated that there is no project effect on the “Mā‘alaea Pipeline.” The completion of the design is contingent on the acceptance of the third SEIS and the preparation of a Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) scheduled for completion in FY11. Proposed activities to be completed in FY09 are the completion of revised marine biological surveys for compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), re-evaluation of the economic benefits of the proposed action, and issuance of a supplemental Notice of Intent and Public Scoping meeting in the Summer 2009. The current total project construction costs are estimated at more than \$16,000,000 (\$14,400,000 Federal; \$1,600,000 non-Federal).

