



SUSTAINMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

**CLEARED
For Open Publication**

Sep 01, 2020

August 28, 2020

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Dear Native Hawaiian Organization Leader,

In recognition of the unique legal and cultural context for consultation in Hawaii and the buildup of mission-critical military operations across the State, the Department of Defense (DoD) established a consultation policy specific to Hawaii in October 2011, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.03, "Consultation With Native Hawaiian Organizations." The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) reviews each of its policies every ten years to determine needed updates; DoD plans to update DoDI 4710.03 by October 2021.

As an initial step to updating DoDI 4710.03, OSD requested comments and recommendations from your organization and other Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) affected by the policy in November 2019. DoD reviewed and addressed comments gathered from the Native Hawaiian community and prepared the attached update to DoDI 4710.03. The goal of the update is to provide improved guidance that promotes timely, substantive, and respectful consultations between the DoD Components and NHOs.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on travel, DoD cannot conduct in-person consultation with NHOs at this time. To ensure everyone's safety, I invite your organization's written comments on the latest draft of DoDI 4710.03 by November 6, 2020. DoD is also available to discuss your input on a teleconference or webinar. A copy of the draft is also available on the DoD Native American Affairs page, www.denix.osd.mil/na/Hawaii/. Please submit comments to DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com.

DoD is committed to consulting in good faith with the Native Hawaiian community, complying with applicable Federal laws and regulations, and ensuring that the DoD Components avoid or minimize, to the extent practicable and consistent with the law, the effects of DoD actions on properties and places of traditional religious, cultural, or subsistence importance to Native Hawaiians.

The input provided by you and other NHO leaders is essential to the success of our effort. Thank you in advance for your additional comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Maureen Sullivan
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Environment)

Attachment:
As stated