

SECTION 106 PUBLIC NOTICE

[<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-and-Staff/Environmental/>]

Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) is proposing an undertaking to create a Professional Education and Military Events Center at Building 502 aboard MCBH in the District of Ko`olaupoko, Ahupua`a of Kaneohe, on the Island of O`ahu, TMK 1-4-4-009:007. The proposed undertaking is currently in the planning phase.

The undertaking would provide a modern event center with bar and flexible meeting rooms, effective flow, inviting design elements, and access to natural light and Pacific Ocean views. It would provide “right-sized” meeting spaces for in-person and virtual meetings and events and feature Integrated Digital Systems. It would offer wide hallways and uncluttered open space to create an open, inviting environment and ensure ample informal space for collaboration. The plans include appropriate acoustic control with soundproofing and noise reduction, and ample natural lighting from the abundant use of windows. The project would maintain the current world-class views of the surrounding environment and Pacific Ocean and incorporate sustainable and easily maintained systems, finishes, and materials.

Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.4(b), investigations by qualified preservation professionals have identified Building 502 as individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These investigations included background research, field investigation, and field survey in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Identification. A letter of concurrence on eligibility from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) can be found in the MCBH “Historic Context and Building Inventory (Wil Chee Planning et al. 2014).” Building 502 was built in 1941 on the southeastern spur of Pu`u Hawai`iloa to serve as the Naval Air Station Kaneohe Officer’s Club. This facility was part of the initial base plan designed by Albert Kahn Inc. The Officer’s Club had been completed at the time of the 7 December 1941 attack. As a recreational facility, Building 502 provided support for the functions of the base, especially the morale of the forces which was considered essential to the overall war effort. It is adjacent to the Heleloa (historically Hilltop) neighborhood that has been the location of housing for the base’s high-ranking officers, including the base commander, since the initial establishment of the base. On the ground floor level of the Officer’s Club is a large rectangular concrete swimming pool, Facility 537, that was added in 1942. Facility 537 is also eligible for the National Register.

Previous subsurface archaeological investigations near Building 502 (Roberts et al. 2002; O`Hare and Allen 2002; Osborne et al. 2013) have found no evidence of any archaeological deposits or sites, likely due to the high elevation terrain of the volcanic prominence of Pu`u Hawai`iloa. In contrast, archaeological evidence suggests the lower slopes of Pu`u Hawai`iloa were used in the pre-Contact period for a combination of dryland agriculture and residences.

In accordance with Section 106 Implementing Regulations at 36 CFR 800.3(e) and (f), the Marine Corps, in consultation with the SHPO, seeks public input and to notify the public of the proposed actions, and to identify any other parties entitled to be consulting parties in the section 106 process for this undertaking. Please direct all questions, comments, and correspondence no later than 15 October 2025 to MCBH_S4_CULTURAL_RESOURCES_SMB@USMC.MIL.