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IN REPLY REFER TO:
HAR-EP 3497.21

December 17, 2020

Lieutenant Colonel Eric S. Marshall, P.E.
District Commander
Honolulu District, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Dear Lt. Colonel Marshall:

Subject: Reaffirmation of Need and Ability to Participate in a Feasibility Study for Honolulu Harbor Modifications (Project No.10629)

This letter serves to reaffirm the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Harbors Division's (DOT-H) ability to finance the non-federal cost share of the feasibility study of the Honolulu Harbor modification project. We have budgeted the fifty percent local sponsor share of the feasibility study costs in fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023. Additionally, we are committed to actively participating in the conduct of the feasibility study and hope to identify a federal plan that can be implemented.

As you heard during your project familiarization tour stop at the Aloha Tower, Honolulu Harbor is the hub of all maritime activities in the State. As indicated in our letters of April 23, 2020 and September 24, 2020, significant improvements and modifications must be made in Honolulu Harbor to meet current and future needs, including adapting to climate change/sea level change, diversifying the economy, responding to maritime industry growth, and support to our Nation's military in the Indo-Pacific Region.

While the coronavirus pandemic of 2019 has caused wide-spread economic impacts and difficulties throughout the Nation, harbors throughout the country continued to move regular and emergency cargo to sustain our communities and to meet the increased demands brought on by the pandemic and enhanced health protocols. Throughout the pandemic, Hawaii's commercial harbors proved its importance and remained open for business as waterborne commerce is the most cost-efficient means of moving goods to sustain Hawaii's remote communities.

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We look forward to the Honolulu District's notification of the new start feasibility study of modifications to Honolulu Harbor. We also look forward to sharing greater details about the Hawaii Harbor System with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek J. Chow', with a stylized, cursive script.

DEREK J. CHOW
Deputy Director
Department of Transportation, Harbors Division