



# Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility

*Pearl Harbor, Hawaii*

## Cultural Resources Fact Sheet



Figure 1. Present-Day View of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

### Location

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) is located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on the southern shore of the Island of Oahu, Hawai'i. PHNSY & IMF encompasses 148 acres and is located in the ahupua'a of Hālawā in the moku of 'Ewa. Pearl Harbor itself, or Pu'u'loa, consists of about 36 miles of shoreline divided into three distinct lochs that share a narrow outlet. PHNSY & IMF is located on the shore of East Loch near Ford Island and the Pearl Harbor National Memorial.

### Mission

Located on the island of O'ahu, Hawaii, PHNSY & IMF's strategic location is a vital waypoint and defensive outpost between the U.S. mainland and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region. As the largest industrial employer in Hawaii, with approximately 5,800 civilian employees and 500 active duty military personnel, PHNSY & IMF's mission supports the maintenance and modernization of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. PHNSY & IMF currently supports Los Angeles-class submarines and is looking to the future and bringing on more modern lines of submarines. For the foreseeable future, PHNSY & IMF's nuclear maintenance workload will remain steady or increase.

### History

The archaeological record indicates that Pearl Harbor was a favorable location for traditional Hawaiian aquaculture. A total of 27 fishponds have been documented in Pearl Harbor. The shipyard was known from historic maps to be the site of three traditional Hawaiian fishponds, including Loko Pohaku, Loko Amana, and an unnamed fishpond. Based on radiocarbon dates and traditional accounts, these fishponds were initially constructed during the fourteenth century, and used through the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. However, these former fishponds have been filled at least since 1919, and the location used for industrial activities associated with the shipyard.

Pearl Harbor became an active naval facility in the late-1880s when King Kalākaua granted the U.S. exclusive rights to enter Pearl Harbor and establish a coaling and repair station. In 1908, the U.S. Congress established Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Territory of Hawaii and authorized \$3 million to build it. Over the next 11 years, Pearl Harbor channels and lochs were enlarged and dredged, shops and supply houses constructed, and Dry Dock No. 1 opened. In the mid-1930s, further efforts were made to improve the entrance channel and build repair facilities that would make Pearl Harbor a major overhaul base with capabilities equal to those at Mare Island (closed 1996) and Puget Sound naval shipyards. By May of 1940, Pearl

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Figure 2. Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, 1941

Harbor Navy Yard had a dry dock capable of holding the largest warships, a marine railway for smaller ones, an industrial plant for repairing and maintaining these ships, numerous support facilities, and abundant mooring and docking locations for ships, including a berthing area along the eastern side of Ford Island that was commonly called “Battleship Row.” During 1940-1941, construction of new facilities was undertaken at a rapid pace including new permanent dry docks and expansion of the supply depot. President Franklin D. Roosevelt transferred the U.S. Fleet to Pearl Harbor as a presumed deterrent to Japanese aggression in the Pacific, but 18 months later, on December 7, 1941, the forces of the Imperial Navy of Japan targeted Pearl Harbor and thrust America into World War II. Twenty-one ships were damaged and/or sunk in the attack and over 2400 Americans killed. Pearl Harbor Navy Yard provided pivotal support during the war effort and significantly contributed to the hard-fought victory in World War II.

After the war, the official name of the facility was changed to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. While there was little new construction in the decades following the war, the shipyard continued to support the Fleet in major U.S. military operations including the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War. During the Korean Conflict, the shipyard provided ship repairs and prepared mothballed ships for active service. In 1959, the shipyard was designated as the planning shipyard for Regulus and Permit class submarines and also began performing Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) work on both submarines and destroyers in an effort to extend the life of the ships. Throughout the Cold War, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard provided support for a variety of Navy programs that enhanced and upgraded vessels with the latest technological advancements. PHNSY and the IMF were consolidated in 1998 to capitalize on the combined capabilities of the two elements.

### Historic Properties

The U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor was listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1964. The nomination and boundaries were revised and amended in 1974 and again in 1978. The NHL encompasses PHNSY & IMF and the surrounding water, land, and facilities. The NHL was determined to have significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of military, engineering, and industry. There are other properties listed as NHLs, or individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the vicinity of PHNSY & IMF. There may be additional NRHP-eligible properties within and in the vicinity of PHNSY & IMF.



Figure 3. Pearl Harbor Dry Dock, 1919