FOR RELEASE: December 21, 1977

EXPEDITE ACTION ON KAHOOLAWE HISTORIC SITE
RECOMMENDATIONS, MATSUNAGA URGES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Washington, D. C. -- The Federal Government should expedite its efforts to identify historic sites on the Island of Kahoolawe and recommend them for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) said today.

In similar letters to the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Matsunaga said he was concerned about delays at the federal level in the identification of historic sites on Kahoolawe and the development of a revised Environmental Impact Statement for the island. His letters followed a meeting on Monday, December 19, with representatives of the three federal agencies and members of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana.

"The Hawaii State Office of Historic Preservation has surveyed approximately 40 percent of the Island of Kahoolawe and, over a month ago, recommended to the Navy that some 60 sites be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places," Matsunaga said. The Navy is under a court order, handed down in September, to nominate historic sites on Kahoolawe for the National Register, to obtain the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior about the feasibility of designating the entire island as an historic site, and to revise its Environmental Impact Statement for Kahoolawe.

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"I am concerned about the Navy's delay in complying with the court order," said Matsunaga, who is both an attorney and the Vice Chairman of the Senate subcommittee which has broad jurisdiction over historic preservation.

In his letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Matsunaga said:

"I urge you, as the nation's principal historic preservation officer, to expedite the processing of the historic site recommendations."

Apparently, the revised Environmental Impact Statement has been drafted by the Navy but has not yet been forwarded to the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, Matsunaga told EPA Administrator Douglas Costle, urging him to find out the status of the Statement.

It is anticipated that there may be over 100 historic sites on Kahoolawe, Matsunaga said. Although the Navy is taking steps to protect some of the sites, the great majority of them are being endangered by the continued bombing of the island.

"This is a matter of very great concern, not only to the Native Hawaiian community, but to all residents of Hawaii who are concerned about the protection of our unique cultural heritage," Matsunaga said. "It has become an emotional and highly volatile issue in Hawaii."

The court order was handed down by the U. S. District Court in Hawaii on September 15, 1977. A stay, requested by the Navy, was not granted, Matsunaga pointed out. He noted that the Navy
KAHOLAWE/3

has been cooperating with the Hawaii State Office of Historic Preservation, permitting archeological teams to spend five days every month on the island to complete the historic site survey.

"It seems to have become bottlenecked at the federal level," he said. "No one appears to know what happened to the historic site recommendations after they were submitted by the State agency. Hopefully, the efforts of the congressional delegation will help expedite processing of the recommendations."

After the Navy acts on the historic site recommendations, they must be returned to the State for formal approval by a State Review Board and then forwarded to the National Park Service for a review which could take as long as 40 days. The revised Environmental Impact Statement must be reviewed by the EPA's regional office and, possibly, EPA's office in Washington, D. C., Matsunaga said. The Hawaii lawmaker expressed the hope that public hearings will be held on the environmental plan.

In addition to Matsunaga and representatives of the Navy, the Interior Department and the EPA, the Monday meeting was attended by representatives of the Justice Department, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Council on Environmental Quality, representatives of the other members of the Hawaii congressional delegation, and members of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana.

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NAVY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR KAHOOLAWE

Washington, D. C. -- The Navy will hold public hearings on its revised Environmental Impact Statement for the Island of Kahoolawe in mid-April, Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) said today.

The hearings will be held at several locations in Hawaii to enable the Navy to obtain the broadest possible range of views, said Matsunaga, who had earlier requested that public hearings be held on the court-ordered revisions to the environmental plan.

Further information with respect to the time and place of the hearings will be announced shortly by the Navy, said the Hawaii lawmaker.

"I commend the Navy for deciding to seek public comment on its environmental plans for Kahoolawe," said Matsunaga. "The future of Kahoolawe -- and its past -- are matters of great concern to all the people of Hawaii. The hearings will provide a proper forum for responsible public discussion."

Matsunaga is a cosponsor with U. S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) of legislation which would require the Navy to conduct a demonstration project on Kahoolawe to determine whether the Island can be cleared of unexploded ordnance and made habitable. For many years, he has expressed concern about the safety of residents of West Maui who live closest to the bombing target and about the level of noise.
caused by the Navy's bombing practice. Matsunaga has also expressed on several occasions his concern about the destruction of historic artifacts and rare plants on Kahoolawe.

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FOR RELEASE: February 23, 1978

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT MOVES TO EXPEDITE KAHOOLAWE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Washington, D. C. -- In an effort to speed up the identification
of historic sites on the Island of Kahoolawe, the U. S. Department of
the Interior has asked the Navy to expedite its survey of the island's
target area and to use a "multiple resources" format in nominating sites
for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, according to

Use of the multiple resources format would reduce the amount of
redtape involved in submitting numerous site nomination forms for review
by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Interior Department,
Matsunaga said. Instead of submitting separate historical data sheets
about Kahoolawe with each individual site nomination, the multiple resources
format requires the submission of only one historical overview with the
56 site nomination forms already prepared by the State of Hawaii. As
additional sites on Kahoolawe are identified, they can be added to the
draft nomination for review by the Interior Department.

Matsunaga, who serves on the Senate Committee with jurisdiction over
the historic preservation program (the Energy and Natural Resources
Committee), had asked the Interior Department for a status report on
the 56 site nomination forms prepared by the State Office of Historic
Preservation and forwarded to the Navy last fall. In his reply yesterday,
Chris Therral Delaporte, Director of the Heritage Conservation and
Recreation Service, said that two meetings attended by representatives of

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the Navy and the Interior Department had been held to discuss the draft nominations. As a result of these preliminary discussions, the revised format was suggested by the Interior Department.

The Interior Department also reiterated its interest in the ongoing archeological survey of Kahoolawe, providing Matsunaga with a copy of a recent letter addressed to the Department of the Navy. The letter, from Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register, pointed out that the historic and archeological properties located on Kahoolawe appear to be of "great significance." While the archeological sites discovered to date are well preserved due to a lack of intense development of Kahoolawe, they are "fragile" and "may be easily destroyed by erosion or direct contact" due to the island's extreme aridity, Murtagh told the Navy.

"We are anxious to see the nominations of sites on Kahoolawe submitted as quickly as possible in a format that will permit the most appropriate and expeditious management and preservation (where feasible) of these significant resources," Murtagh said.

On behalf of the Interior Department, Murtagh offered technical assistance in connection with the ongoing survey of Kahoolawe and in determining whether the entire island may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

"Such a determination, based upon partial survey information and tested predictive statements, appears possible at this time....," Murtagh said.

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Currently, the Navy's Pacific Division is preparing the multiple resources nomination, including the 56 draft nomination forms already prepared, and developing a new scope of work for the remaining archeological survey of Kahoolawe, Matsunaga said. Plans for the survey will be reviewed by the Interior Department within the next few weeks before a new survey contract is negotiated by the Navy.

The Interior Department also offered assistance in administering the archeological survey of Kahoolawe, provided that funds for the project are transferred by the Navy.

Matsunaga said he planned to present the Interior Department's report to other members of the Hawaii congressional delegation at one of the delegation's periodic meetings this week.

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FIRST THIRTY-FOUR SITES ON KAHOOLawe ELIGIBLE
FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Washington, D.C. -- The U.S. Department of the Interior has informed the Navy and the State of Hawaii that 34 archeological sites on the Island of Kahoolawe are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, according to Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii).

Matsunaga, a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which has jurisdiction over matters concerning historic preservation, had urged expedited consideration of the 34 sites which are endangered by erosion and the Navy military activities on Kahoolawe.

"These sites are only a fraction of the total number discovered during the Navy's archeological survey of Kahoolawe," explained the Hawaii lawmaker. "They were recommended for expedited consideration because they are endangered. It is anticipated that additional sites will be considered by the Interior Department as the survey proceeds.

"The Interior Department's formal notification, received in my office today, is the first objective federal recognition of Kahoolawe's historic value," continued Matsunaga. "It will enable the Navy to fully protect these 34 sites and will strengthen the efforts of the State of Hawaii to preserve and protect Kahoolawe's historic resources."

The Interior Department declined to issue a finding on a 35th site nomination form submitted by the Navy because of lack of sufficient information. The Department's findings with respect to the historic sites have been forwarded for comment to the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Interior Department has advised the Navy to include in its Environmental Impact Statement on Kahoolawe the fact that 34 sites are eligible for addition to the National Register.
MATSUNAGA REQUESTS NAVY TO HALT MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ON KAHOOLawe

Washington, D. C.--Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) has asked the Navy to defer any construction for military purposes on the island of Kahoolawe until after the U. S. Department of the Interior makes a decision on the island's historic significance.

The Hawaii lawmaker said that he had been informed that the Navy and Marine Corps were planning to construct a hand grenade training facility, helicopter pads, and range control tower on Kahoolawe in the near future. Construction of the range control tower reportedly is scheduled to start Monday at Moaula, identified as a site of great religious significance to Native Hawaiians and the site with the highest elevation.

Construction on Kahoolawe should be delayed until after the U. S. Department of the Interior and the Federal District Court in Hawaii have had a chance to review data concerning historic sites on Kahoolawe, said Matsunaga. The Navy is expected to submit at least 200 historic site nominations on August 17, 1980. More than 600 sites with potential historic significance have been discovered on Kahoolawe during a two-year archeological survey conducted by the Navy, said Matsunaga.

The Navy will submit its historic site nominations to the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Office for review, said Matsunaga. After that, the nominations will be reviewed by the Interior Department, which will make the final decision with respect to Kahoolawe's historic significance and eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

"Full consultation with the Interior Department, which is the agency with primary responsibility for the nation's historic preservation program, will assure an unbiased and credible decision with respect to Kahoolawe's historic significance," said the Hawaii lawmaker. "While the Navy has agreed to a conservation program conducted jointly with the State of Hawaii and has agreed to surface clear a portion of Kahoolawe, the questions of protection of the historic sites on the island and access to the sites for the people of Hawaii are still sources of contention and bitterness."
FOR RELEASE: March 23, 1981

EXPEDITE PROTECTION OF KAHOOLAWE'S HISTORIC RESOURCES, MATSUNAGA URGES COUNCIL

Washington, D.C.—Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) today urged the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to expedite the development of a management plan to protect the historic sites on the Island of Kahoolawe.

"In determining that the entire Island of Kahoolawe was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the U. S. Department of the Interior observed that Kahoolawe is the only island in Hawaii where the total prehistoric and historic settlement system is known to be preserved," said Matsunaga in a letter to the Council. "Evidence documenting almost 1000 years of human utilization of the island has been discovered."

In addition, said the Hawaii lawmaker, the Interior Department noted that Native Hawaiian cultural traditions associated with Kahoolawe merit more study and recommended that a professional assessment of such values be undertaken.

In his letter, Matsunaga observed that the historic sites on Kahoolawe are endangered not only by the Navy's use of the target island but also by erosion, particularly during the winter months when rain and heavy surf batter the island.

"Therefore," he said, "I urge that the development of a plan for the management of the historic and cultural resources on Kahoolawe be expedited as much as possible."

Matsunaga had earlier recommended that the Island of Kahoolawe be included on the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Interior Department. The Island is owned by the State of Hawaii, but, since 1953, it has been used as a bombing target by the Navy under an Executive Order signed by President Eisenhower. Under existing law, Kahoolawe is to be restored by the Navy and returned to the State when it is no longer needed. Since the late 1960's, the Hawaii congressional delegation has urged that Kahoolawe be cleared of unexploded ordnance and returned to the State. Last year, Congress passed legislation authorizing the Navy to conduct a demonstration project to clear a portion of Kahoolawe.

Kahoolawe was listed on the National Register of Historic Places earlier this month. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the next step is for the Navy to develop a Management Plan for the protection of Kahoolawe's historic and cultural resources. The National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is required by law to comment on the plan proposed by the Navy and to assist in the preparation of an appropriate protection plan.
Honolulu, Hawaii--In a letter to Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman today, U. S. Senator Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) urged that the Hawaiian Island of Kahoolawe be excluded from the five-nation RIMPAC naval exercises.

Use of Kahoolawe as a bombing target as planned, may violate a legal agreement between the Navy and the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, he said.

"The consent agreement signed by the Navy and the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana in December 1980 provides among other things that no target on Kahoolawe shall be closer than 770 yards from an historic site," explained Matsunaga. "At least four targets which will be used during the RIMPAC exercises are reportedly within 770 yards of significant historic sites."

In addition, said Matsunaga, the 1953 Executive Order which permits the U. S. Navy to use Kahoolawe for training, and the Navy's agreement with the State of Hawaii relating to Kahoolawe are both silent on the question of use by foreign armed forces.

"This use apparently was not contemplated," he said.

Matsunaga told the Navy Secretary that Kahoolawe's inclusion in the RIMPAC exercises has generated considerable concern in Hawaii, pointing out that the State Legislature has passed resolutions expressing this concern and urging the Navy to reconsider its use of Kahoolawe.

When Kahoolawe was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, the U. S. Department of the Interior noted that more than 500 historic sites had been discovered on the island and that many were in good condition and dated back to the pre-discovery era.

"The use of Kahoolawe as planned in the RIMPAC exercises would definitely endanger the island's historic resources," said Matsunaga. "Once an historic site is destroyed, it is gone forever."