

8.13 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

8.13.1 Affected Environment

PTA occupies mainly Pā‘auhau-Pa‘auilo CCD and small portions of North Kona, South Kohala, and North Hilo CCDs. As shown in Table 3.13, within Hawai‘i County the South Kohala CCD experienced one of the greatest population growth percentages (43.7 percent), and in 2000 the population of the North Kona CCD (which includes the city of Kailua-Kona) was one of the largest population centers on the island of Hawai‘i, with 19.2 percent of the population (US Census Bureau 1990a, 2000a). Of the CCDs occupied by PTA, North Hilo CCD had the highest level of home ownership (78.7 percent) and North Kona CCD had the lowest (58.5 percent). In Pā‘auhau-Pa‘auilo CCD and South Kohala CCD, 77.1 percent and 58.9 percent of occupied units were owned. North Kona CCD had the highest level of vacancy (24.6 percent), most of which were seasonal/recreational units; and Pā‘auhau-Pa‘auilo CCD had the lowest vacancy rate (7.7 percent) (US Census Bureau 1990a, 2000b).

Table 8-33 shows population percentages by race/ethnicity of the CCDs in which PTA is located. Of the PTA CCDs, Pā‘auhau-Pa‘auilo CCD had the highest percentage of Hispanic population (11.3 percent) and North Kona had the lowest (7.9 percent). North Hilo had the highest percentage of minority populations (71.9 percent) and North Kona CCD had the lowest (52.9 percent) (US Census Bureau 1990a, 2000a). The percentage of the populations of North Hilo, North Kona, Pā‘auhau-Pa‘auilo, and South Kohala CCDs under the age of 18 was 25.8, 25.5, 28.7, and 30.1 percent, respectively. South Kohala CCD experienced the highest percentage growth in this age group between 1990 and 2000 (45.3 percent), and North Hilo CCD experienced the lowest percentage growth (0.2 percent) over this period (US Census Bureau 1990a, 2000c).

In 2000, the ROI (i.e., Hawai‘i County) civilian labor force totaled about 70,000 (HDLIR, 2002). The ROI unemployment rate averaged 6.7 percent in 2000, higher than the state of Hawai‘i’s average unemployment rate of 4.3 percent, and higher than the national unemployment rate of 4.0 percent.

The primary sources of employment in the ROI were the services, retail trade, and government sectors, which together accounted for 67 percent of total employment (BEA 2002b). Thirty-four percent of all jobs were in the services sector. The services industry includes establishments primarily engaged in providing a variety of services, such as hotels and other lodging places; establishments providing personal, business, repair, and amusement services; health, legal, engineering, and other professional services; educational institutions; membership organizations; and other miscellaneous services (OSHA, 2001). The leading industry in the ROI is tourism and recreation.

Retail trade accounted for approximately 18 percent of total ROI employment. The government sector was the third largest employment sector, accounting for about 16 percent of total employment. Of that 16 percent, approximately 2 percent were federal military jobs, 1 percent were federal civilian jobs, 10 percent were employed by the state, and the remaining 3 percent were employed by local government.

Table 8-33
PTA Area CCD Population Percentage by Race/Ethnicity

	Percent of Total Population 1990	Percent of Total Population 2000	Percent Change in Actual Population 1990-2000
North Hilo CCD			
White	28.4	28.1	10.8
Black or African American	0.5	0.3	-37.5
Native American, Eskimo, Aleut	0.8	0.5	-33.3
Asian and Pacific Islander	67.8	40.0	-34.2
Other and Two or More Races	2.5	31.1	1,271.8
Hispanic ¹	10.1	9.6	5.8
Minority ²	71.6	71.9	12.0
North Kona CCD			
White	58.9	47.1	2.5
Black or African American	0.4	0.4	37.0
Native American, Eskimo, Aleut	0.7	0.5	-13.6
Asian and Pacific Islander	38.2	27.0	-9.5
Other and Two or More Races	1.8	24.9	1,710.9
Hispanic ¹	7.9	7.9	28.6
Minority ²	41.1	52.9	64.7
Pā‘auhau-Pa‘auilo CCD			
White	43.9	32.5	-12.0
Black or African American	0.2	0.0	-75.0
Native American, Eskimo, Aleut	0.9	0.3	-62.5
Asian and Pacific Islander	53.7	34.0	-24.9
Other and Two or More Races	1.3	33.2	2,836.0
Hispanic ¹	8.4	11.3	59.6
Minority ²	56.1	67.5	42.7
South Kohala CCD			
White	52.3	38.8	6.5
Black or African American	0.5	0.4	2.1
Native American, Eskimo, Aleut	0.7	0.2	-62.7
Asian and Pacific Islander	45.2	30.9	-1.8
Other and Two or More Races	1.3	29.8	3,161.7
Hispanic ¹	10.0	8.0	14.3
Minority ²	47.7	61.2	84.4

Source: US Census Bureau 1990a, 2000a

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

²Minority includes Black or African American; Native American, Eskimo, and Aleut; Asian and Pacific Islander; and Other and Two or More Races.

As of September 2001, PTA employed 75 personnel (HDBEDT 2003). Seven were military personnel, 22 were civilian personnel, and the remaining 46 were other personnel (non-appropriated employees, government contractors, or foreign nationalists). There are no personnel permanently stationed at PTA.

The PCPI of the ROI was \$20,399 (State of Hawai'i DLIR 2002). This was lower than the state of Hawai'i's PCPI of \$27,851, and lower than the national PCPI of \$29,469.

8.13.2 Environmental Consequences

Summary of Impacts

The Proposed Action is expected to have temporary beneficial effects on employment, income, and business volume in Hawai'i County and Pā'auhau-Pa'auilo CCD, North Kona CCD, South Kohala CCD, and North Hilo CCD, resulting from construction and the resultant increased expenditures that would stimulate the economy within the ROI. Less than significant adverse effects on population, employment, and income would occur from the Proposed Action because the changes to these factors would be within the capacity of society and the economy to absorb.

Chapter 4, Section 4.13 provides a discussion of the EIFS model results. Only the results pertaining to Hawai'i County are applicable to PTA. As identified in the EIFS results in Table 4-14, construction at PTA would have a significant and mitigable impact on sales volume in Hawai'i County. The percent change in sales volume for Hawai'i County is slightly above the RTV historical high for sales (7.38 compared to the RTV of 7.18 percent). This could indicate that the Proposed Action might create a high demand for certain goods and services that could result in short-term shortages and price increases.

Because construction would occur over four years, any supply and demand issues could be mitigated by long-range procurement planning to avoid excessive demand on local and outside suppliers.

The Proposed Action also would have less than significant impacts on the protection of children because, while the Army would continue to implement safety procedures, some risks to nearby populations (particularly children) are inherent to increased construction and training activities. There would be no impacts on population, schools, or housing because no new staff would be added at PTA. No disproportionate impacts on low-income or minority populations would be expected as a result of the Proposed Action. Additionally, no residences or businesses would be displaced by any of the land acquisitions associated with the Proposed Action or the RLA Alternative.

No Action would have no impacts on socioeconomic or environmental justice factors or on the protection of children. Table 8-34 summarizes the potential socioeconomic and environmental justice impacts at PTA.

the specific economic parameters (sales, income, employment, and population) would fall within historical fluctuations and are considered minor.

Employment. Implementing the Proposed Action would have a less than significant impact on employment. Construction activities would result in a temporary increase in employment. Subsequent indirect increases in employment are produced by the multiplier effect resulting from increased spending by construction employees. Increased construction employment would be within the historic RTV range for Hawai'i County and would be considered less than significant. No mitigation would be required.

Income. Implementing the Proposed Action would have a less than significant impact on income. Changes in income represent the wage and salary payments made to construction workers. The Proposed Action would temporarily increase total annual income of Hawai'i County by \$17,753,200, a change of 0.73 percent. This change would be within the historic RTV range for Hawai'i County and is not considered significant. No mitigation would be required.

No Impacts

Population. Implementing the Proposed Action would result in no impacts on population. The Proposed Action would not increase the population at PTA.

Housing. Implementing the Proposed Action would have no impact on housing. There would be no increased military population at PTA and, therefore, no increase in the demand for housing.

Economic impacts to environmental justice. No disproportionate effects on environmental justice populations would occur. PTA is relatively isolated, and there are no military or civilian personnel permanently stationed at DMR. There are no residential neighborhoods or schools nearby that would be affected by noise or traffic from training or construction activities.

Potential effects to native Hawaiian cultural or spiritual resources, or to Hawaiian Homelands, are addressed in Section 8.11, Cultural Resources.

Protection of children. Implementing the Proposed Action would have no impact on the health and safety of children. The Proposed Action would not involve children or present public health or safety risks that could affect children. A Girl Scout camp is located about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the PTA cantonment area, a distance that would prevent the camp from being impacted by noise from proposed construction projects. Nor would the camp be impacted from noise or dust from training maneuvers because no training occurs near the camp.

Proposed PTA construction projects would take place in areas that are off-limits to the general public. Restricted areas would continue to be posted with signs, enclosed by a fence, or stationed with guards. Risks to children and to the general public would be minimized by strictly adhering to applicable safety regulations and procedures.

Reduced Land Acquisition Alternative

Significant Impacts Mitigable to Less Than Significant

Impact 1: Economy (Business volume). As described under the Proposed Action, there would be one significant and mitigable impact on sales volume in Hawai'i County from construction activities at PTA under the RLA Alternative. The increase in business volume and, thus, the level of impact would be slightly greater under the RLA Alternative than the Proposed Action due to the shift in construction expenditures for QTR2 from SBMR to PTA.

Regulatory and Administrative Mitigation 1. No mitigation has been identified.

Additional Mitigation 1. Because construction would occur over four years, the Army proposes to conduct long-range procurement planning to lessen excessive supply and demand issues on local and outside suppliers.

Less than Significant Impacts

The socioeconomic impacts for the RLA Alternative would be similar to those described in detail under the Proposed Action. The RLA Alternative would be expected to have beneficial effects on employment, income, and business volume, resulting from new construction and the resultant increased expenditures that would stimulate the economy within the ROI. The RLA Alternative would have less than significant adverse effects on these resources and on the protection of children.

No Impacts

As described under the Proposed Action, the RLA Alternative would have no impacts on population or housing and no disproportionate effects on environmental justice populations.

No Action Alternative

No Impacts

Existing socioeconomic and environmental justice resources would continue under No Action. Under the status quo of No Action, there would be no change in population, employment, income, or economy (business volume). No effects on housing are expected because the number of people requiring housing on- or off-post would not change as a result of No Action. No effects on environmental justice are expected. No Action would not alter the existing health and safety, housing, or economic conditions of minority or low-income populations in Pā'auhau-Pa'auilo CCD, North Kona CCD, South Kohala CCD, and North Hilo CCD, or in Hawai'i County. No effects on children are expected because No Action would not present any change in the public health or safety risk that could affect children. The Army would continue to provide measures to protect the safety of children, including using fencing, limiting access to certain areas, and providing adult supervision.