

TULSI GABBARD  
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

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October 2, 2014

Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.  
Commander, United States Pacific Fleet  
250 Makalapa Drive  
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3131

Dear Admiral Harris,

I am writing to inquire about the Navy's work to monitor the effects of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on the ocean and marine ecosystems. Several constituents have raised concerns about RIMPAC, as well as the exercises conducted at PMRF, causing serious damage to marine life, including injuring sea turtles, cetaceans, and corals.

The Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Biological Opinion and Conference Report on U.S. Navy Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing both outline steps that the Navy will take to minimize its adverse effects on the environment in Hawaii. I am writing to inquire about the specific actions that the Navy took during the RIMPAC 2014 exercise to prevent adverse impact to the marine environment, including sea life. Additionally, has the Navy, or any other entity, conducted other research to show that RIMPAC and other training exercises are not adversely impacting the environment? If not, I would request that the Navy examine this course of action.

As the Navy conducts training and testing in the ocean, we all must keep in mind that the ocean is an integral part of Hawaii, our economy, and our culture, and we all must continue the work to ensure that our ecosystems are not irreversibly damaged. I look forward to continuing to partner on this issue.

Sincerely,



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress