#### Home Front Hawai'i: a WWII Legacy Underneath the Sea

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

(lessons from submerged social sciences)



NOAA Educator's Webinar, Thursday February 14, 2019

Hans Van Tilburg NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries hans.vantilburg@noaa.gov



#### **Topics to be Covered:**

- 1) The maritime heritage field = *submerged social science*
- 2) The Hawaiian Islands during the war years = history
- 3) The WWII resource base in Hawai`i = maritime archaeology
- 4) Wrecks and the environment = biological interactions
- 5) Access to the oceans = evolving marine technology
- 6) Maritime Cultural Landscapes = understanding our impacts

# Submerged Social Sciences

What is Maritime Archaeology?





"The interpretation of the seafaring past through the study of things manufactured or modified by humans...usually underwater"

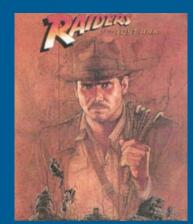
Field initiated by Dr. George Bass and others in the 1960s

This...

#### **Multidisciplinary:**

Anthropology History Geography Engineering Chemistry etc





but not this...

This...

# Training in the maritime archaeology field



#### College graduate (Masters) degree standard for the field

#### Types of coursework:

- archaeology
- anthropology
- history
- museum studies
- material culture
- GIS and mapping
- engineering
- acoustics
- etc



#### •Applied skills needed:

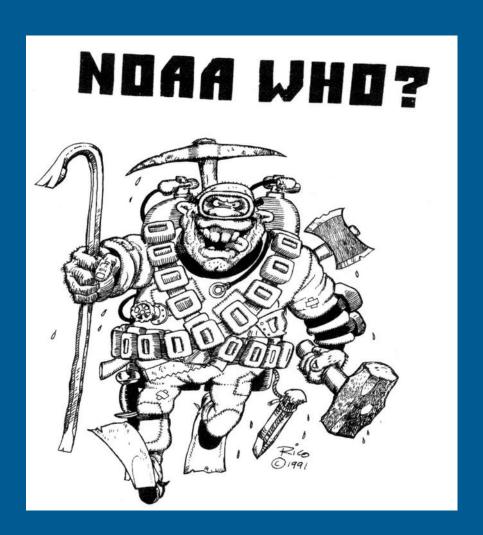
- diving
- computer
- grant writing
- rigging
- drafting (drawing)
- photography
- archival research

#### **Main American universities:**

- Texas A&M
- East Carolina University

# Maritime Heritage: the Preservation of our archaeological resources in the sea





- National Historic Preservation Act section 106 section 110
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act includes historic, archaeological, cultural resources
- Abandoned Shipwreck Act
   State properties under DLNR
- Sunken Military Craft Act
   military vessels remain federal
   property



Waikiki, Territory of Hawai`i, 1943

- Martial Law
- Japanese internment
- Loss of *habeas corpus*
- School closures
- Censorship
- Coastal fortifications
- Gas masks
- Curfew
- Blackout
- Rationing
- Victory gardens
- Loss of fishing fleet





Japanese-American loyalty on parade, Waikiki 1942



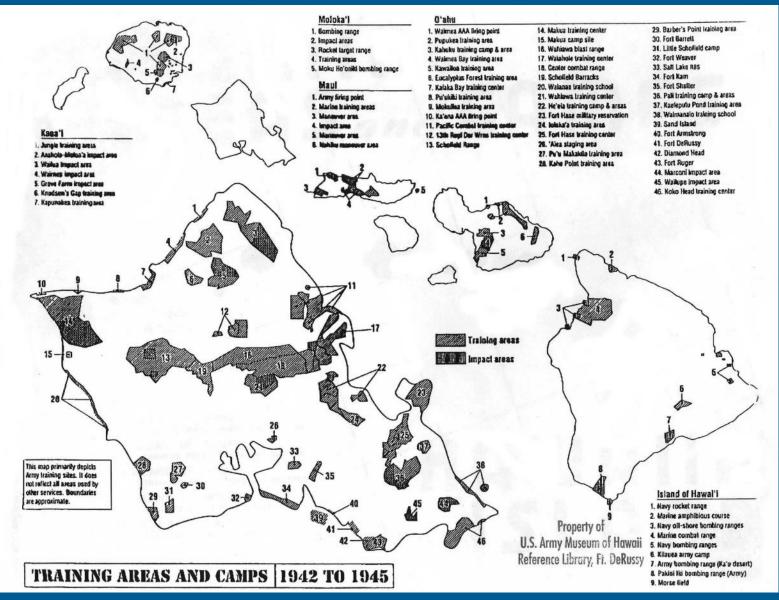


4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division departing Kahului, Maui





WWII Ground training areas, Territory of Hawai'i



# **Archaeology: Early Naval Aviation in Hawai`i**





Keystone PK-I naval flying boat, long-range patrol bomber 1930s (USN photo)









Ford Island VP-1 squadron insignia

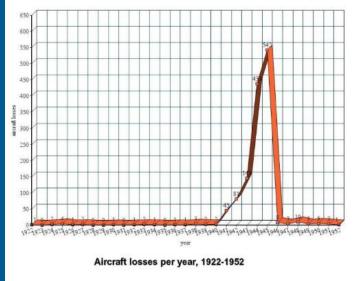
(NOAA ONMS)

#### **Archaeological Resource: 1,475+ Sunken Naval Aircraft**



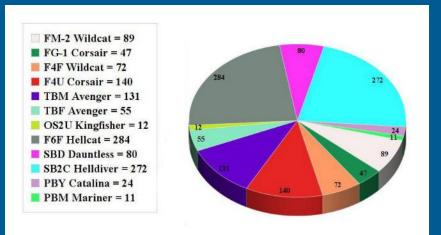
SB2C-1C Helldiver





TBF Avenger (Ross and Milisen 2015)





Aircraft losses per main type (n>10)

F6F Hellcat (HURL)

# Evolution of amphibian vessels and tactics, 1932-1945



(USN image)



And specific variations of all these:

LCA	landing craft assault, small vessel
LCI	landing craft Infantry, fitted with bow doors
LCP	landing craft personnel, for transporting personal
LCS	landing craft support, small armed landing craft
LCT	landing craft tank, up to four tanks and bow doors
LSI	landing ship infantry, ship carrying LCI, or capable of being grounded
LSM	landing ship medium
LST	landing ship tank, RoRo vessel converted for carrying tanks
DUKW	amphibious truck six-wheel drive

#### Archaeological Resource: Amphibious Vessel losses in Hawai`i

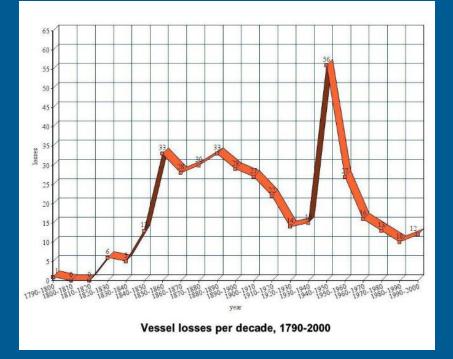


Operation Forager training exercises April-May 1944, Maui (NARA)





LVT-4 Maui

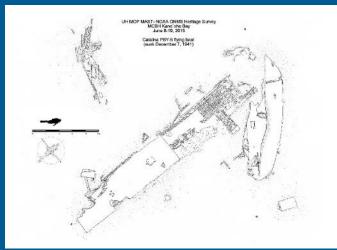


LVT(A)-4 Maui

#### **Combat losses in Hawai`i**

Islands only attacked a couple times

PBY-5 site plan (Kaneohe Bay)

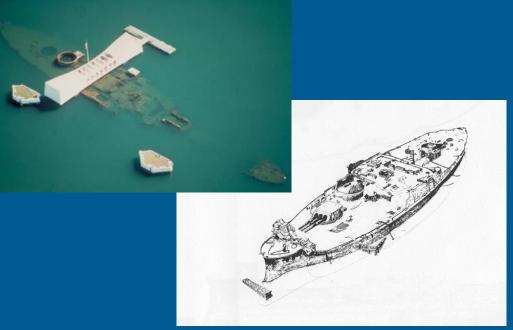




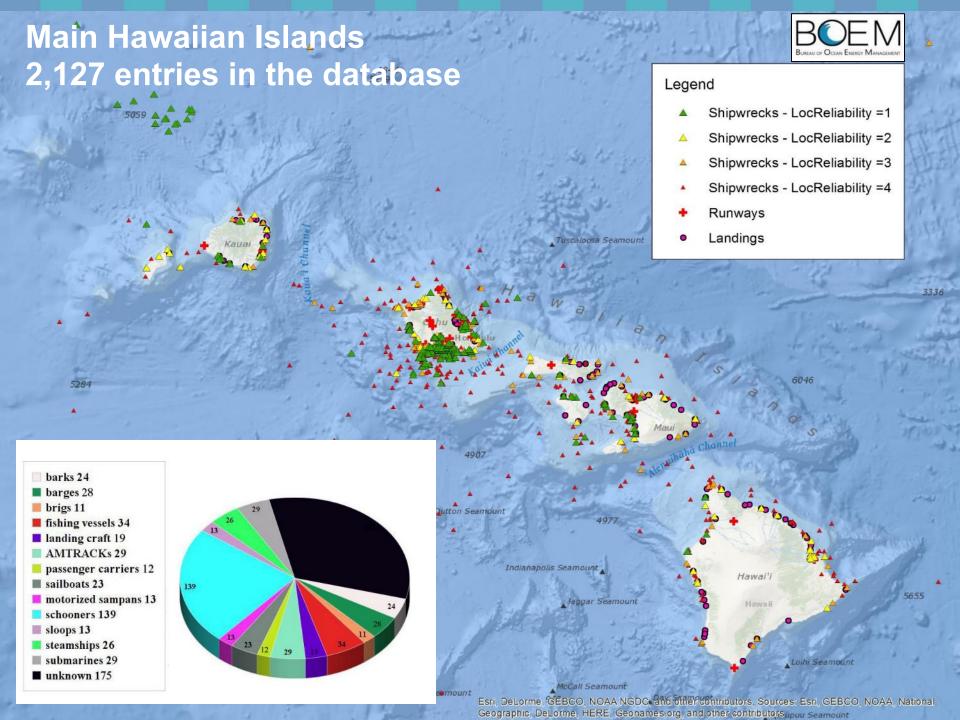




USS Arizona (NPS)



(NPS)











# **Biological Interaction: Wrecks in the Marine Environment**





# **Biological Interaction: Wrecks in the Marine Environment**





# **Biology: Wrecks in the Marine Environment**

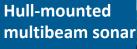


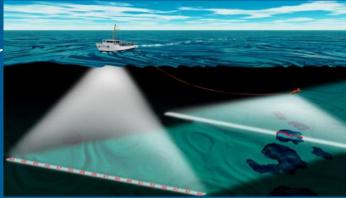


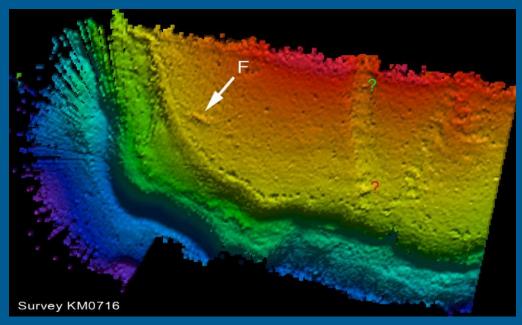
#### **Technology: Multibeam and Backscatter Data for Target Analysis**



Kongsberg EM302 30khz multibeam Range 7000m



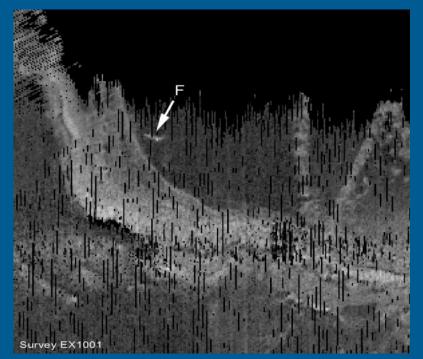




Multibeam survey

The multibeam target = Japanese sibmarine I-401



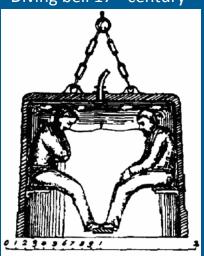


Backscatter imagery comparison

#### **Technology: from Breath-hold to Bubbles and Beyond**



Diving bell 17<sup>th</sup> century



SCUBA 1950s



Lloyd bridges as Mike Nelson!





Closed-circuit rebreather technology

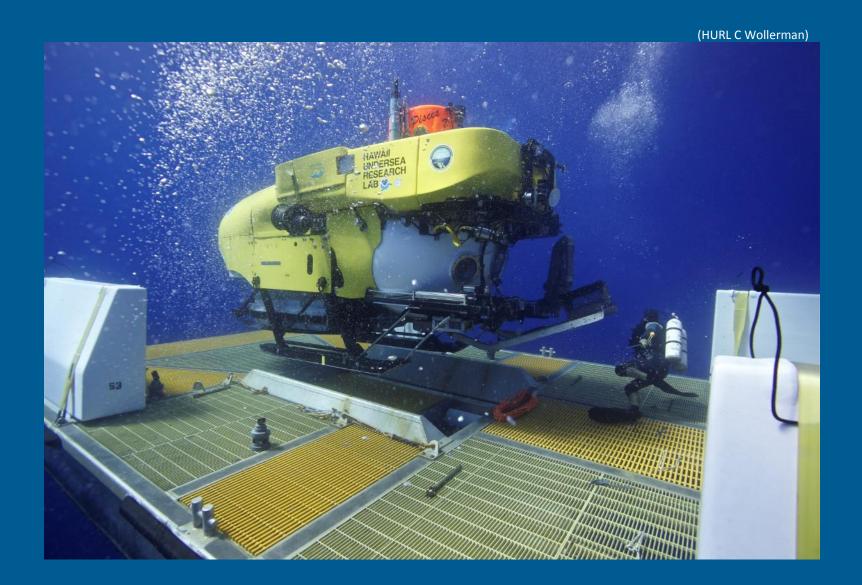


Heavy gear 19th century



# Hawai`i Undersea Research Lab PISCES 3-person research submersibles





#### **Ship control cab**







#### **ROV Surveys** (Okeanos Explorer)

**Remotely Operated Vehicles Deep Discoverer** and **Seirios** Range 6000m

#### **Shoreside Comm Center**





# Deploying Seirios and D2 ROV system







#### **Cultural Landscapes: Patterns in Ocean History**





Navigation landscape along coasts and harbors

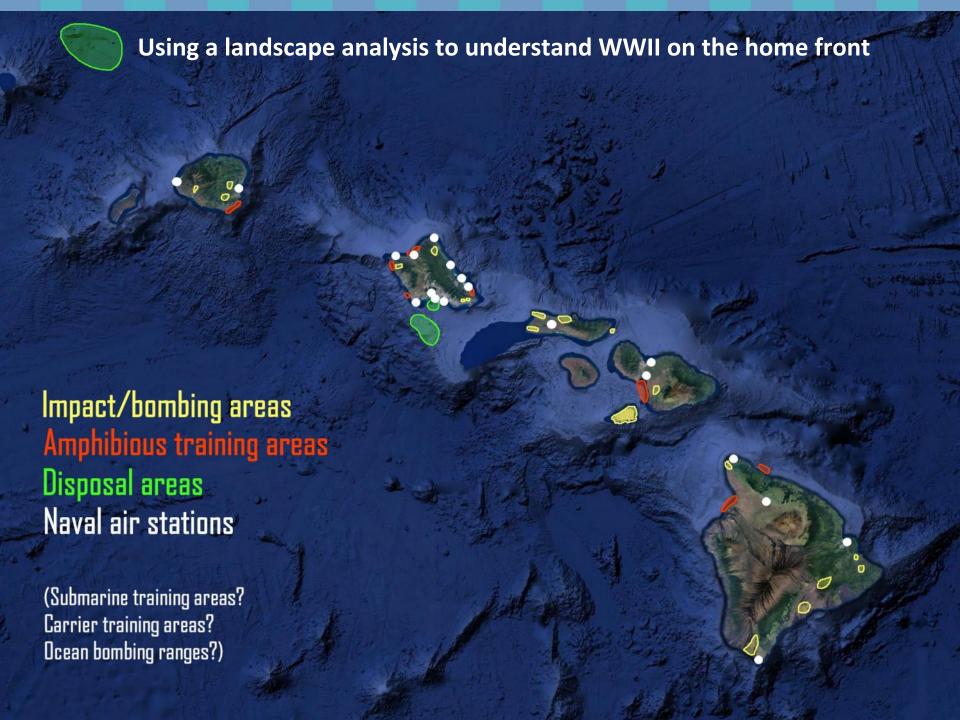


Commercial fishing landscape



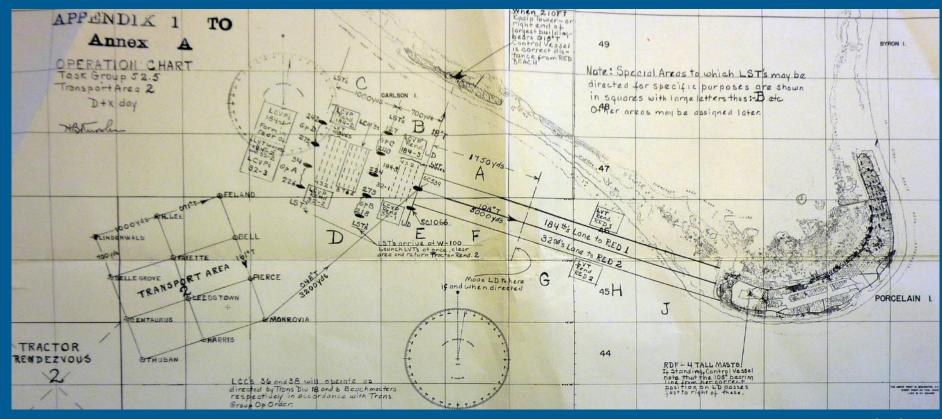
Cultural landscape of traditional voyaging

"The maritime cultural landscape signifies human utilization (economy) of maritime space by boat, settlement, fishing, hunting, shipping, and its attendant subcultures, such as pilotage, lighthouse and seamark maintenance..."



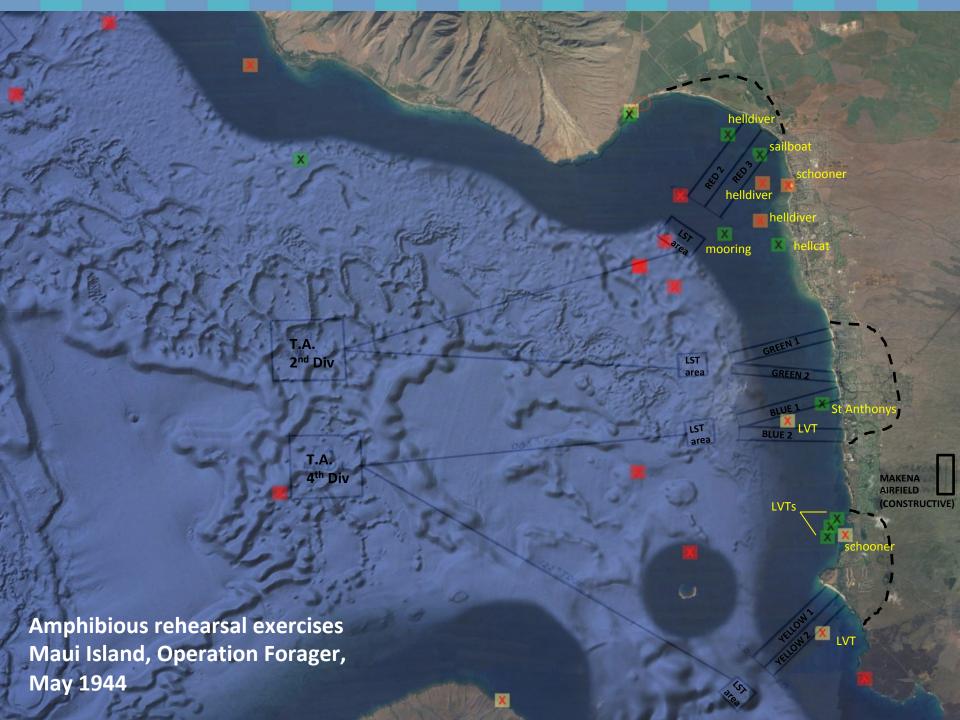
#### Amphibious landing plan "Porcelain" Island -- Kwajalein

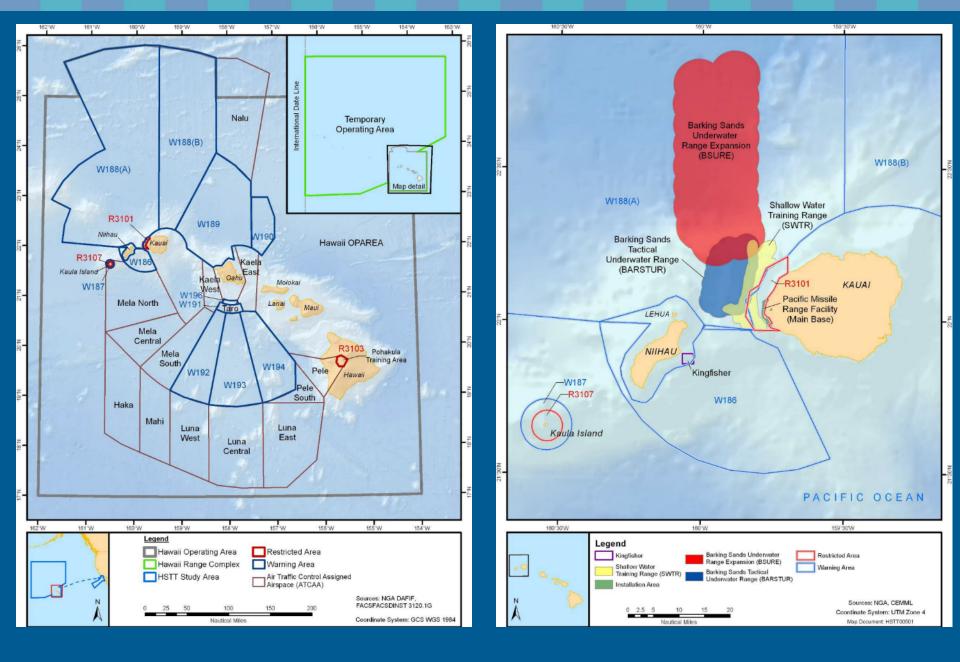




National Archives

...one of the most organized, premeditated, regimented, and patterned forms of human behavior...the action of military units on a battlefield are based on the tactics of the prevailing military wisdom of the day; they are not random. (Potter et al 2000)

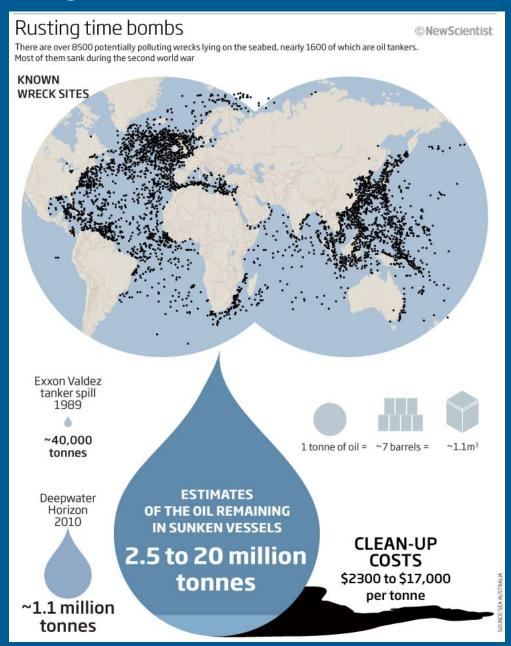




Examples of modern military training landscapes in Hawai'i

#### Potentially polluting wrecks worldwide







#### **Review:**

- 1) The maritime heritage field = submerged social science
- 2) The Hawaiian Islands during the war years = history
- 3) The WWII resource base in Hawai`i = maritime archaeology
- 4) Wrecks and the environment = biological interactions
- 5) Access to the oceans = evolving marine technology
- 6) Maritime Cultural Landscapes = understanding our impacts

#### "Curiosity is the First Prerequisite"



Wreck of the *Dunnottar Castle* 1886

