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## Rotting mangoes nauseating Navy

### Source of bad odor at housing found

By **Linda Aragon**  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Rotting mangoes and other vegetation are probably causing the stench that is nauseating families living in the Navy's Pearl City Peninsula housing area, the Navy said yesterday.

While that may reassure residents who feared that a smoldering dump fire or spilled petroleum was causing the smell, there still was no word on how much longer it will last.

The smell, variously described as approximating sulfur or rancid garlic, is coming from a swampy area several hundred yards behind the Lehua Avenue

Naval Exchange mini-mart and Tender Learning Care day care, said Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Van Leunen.

Navy housing spokesman Don Rochon said investigators have determined the fumes are not hazardous.

But Patrick Johnson, spokesman for the state Department of Health, said the state is "still down there monitoring to see if there are any public health concerns."

A neighborhood meeting with Navy Cmdr. Mark Clausen has been scheduled for 7 tonight at the Pearl City Community Center, residents said.

Van Leunen said rotting fruit and other vegetation are collecting in a wooded area on Pearl Harbor Peninsula near Middle Loch. The fruit ferments in the

brackish, ankle-deep water.

Since Thursday, residents have complained of a strong smell that has kept them up at night, caused day care to close and sent at least one family to seek relief in a hotel.

About a half mile from the Navy housing is a national wildlife refuge, which is home to the native endangered birds: the Hawaiian stilt, the Hawaiian coot and the *koloa*, or Hawaiian duck. Van Leunen said the Navy is evaluating whether pruning the mangrove would harm the refuge.

But Jerry Leinecke, a project leader for the National Wildlife Refuge, said: "This should not be a problem for us."

He said the refuge is probably too far from the mangrove to be affected by a clearing.

## North, west swells pump; south is next

Advertiser Staff

Surf's up for Oahu's north and west shores — but it's not sticking around long.

Hans Rosendal, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said swells of 8 to 12 feet will reach the North Shore today and part of tomorrow. On Leeward Oahu, surf will be up, but not as high.

Rosendal said the high surf doesn't necessarily mean an early winter is on the way. "We can still have some stuff coming up (for surfers) in the south," he said.

A storm off Antarctica could send a southern swell to the Islands by Sunday or Monday, Rosendal said.