

**ARMY TRAINING LAND RETENTION  
OF STATE LANDS AT KAHUKU TRAINING AREA,  
KAWAILOA-POAMOHO TRAINING AREA,  
AND MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION  
ISLAND OF O'AHU  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
VOLUME III: APPENDIX M-1**



**U.S. ARMY**

PREPARED FOR DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII

PREPARED BY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HONOLULU DISTRICT  
UNDER CONTRACT W9128A-19-D-0008

**MAY 2025**

EISX-007-21-001-1733763715

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OF STATE LANDS AT KAHUKU TRAINING AREA,  
KAWAIILOA-POAMOHO TRAINING AREA,  
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Cover photograph: Aerial view of Kahuku Training Area (KTA) facing northwest toward the ocean. Upper left corner shows KTA Tract A-1 beyond Pahipahi 'Ālua Gulch.  
Photograph source: U.S. Army.

**NOTE ABOUT USE OF HAWAIIAN DIACRITICAL MARKINGS:**

This document honors the proper use and presentation of Hawaiian language including use of diacritical marks, the glottal stop and the macron (‘okina and kahakō). When Hawaiian words are used in a proper name of an agency or organization that does not utilize diacritical marks, then official titles are shown without diacritical marks. Diacriticals may not appear in direct quotes or public comments. Elsewhere in this document, diacritical markings are used for Hawaiian terminology, proper names and place names.



## **Volume III Table of Contents**

### **Appendix M-1**

#### **Appendix M-1: Scoping Comments Received**

Federal Agencies  
State of Hawai'i Agencies  
City and County of Honolulu Agencies  
Elected Officials  
Organizations  
Businesses  
Individuals

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## Scoping Comments Received

Federal Agencies

State of Hawai'i Agencies

County of Hawai'i Agencies

Elected Officials

Organizations

Businesses

Individuals

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- \* All comments submitted (including instances of duplicate comments) are incorporated in this Appendix. Transcriptions were produced for both telephone and in-person comments. Transcriptions were completed using accepted transcription standards. Personal and sensitive information have been redacted.
- \*\* Translations were only provided when the entirety of the comment was in a non-English language.
- \*\*\* If a commentor provided attachments such as photographs, documents or other information, those attachments appear directly after the comment letter, and should be considered part of the preceding comment.

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## **Federal Agencies**

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# Federal Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Pacific  
Islands Office Region 9..... US-1  
U.S. Geological Survey ..... US-5

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

August 26, 2021

Amy Bugala  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3444

Subject: Scoping comments for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Amy Bugala:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Federal Register notice published on July 23, 2021 and August 6, 2021 requesting comments on the Department of the Army's decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the subject project. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Department of the Army (Army) is proposing to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of land currently leased to the Army by the State of Hawaii on the island of Oahu. Lease agreements between the State of Hawaii and the Army at each of these three training areas were initiated in 1964 and expire in 2029. State-owned lands include approximately 1,170 acres at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), approximately 4,370 acres at Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and approximately 760 acres at Makua Military Reservation (MMR). The EIS will be a joint NEPA-Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA) document.

The Hawaii EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) states that the Proposed Action does not involve new training, construction, or resource management activities at KTA, Poamoho, or MMR. The Proposed Action is strictly a real estate action that would enable continued military use and management of the State-owned land that the Army would retain. It is possible that the Army would propose the resumption of live-fire training in some form in the future on State-owned lands. Any resumption of live-fire training, or change in the status of any currently approved training activities, would be subject to future, separate NEPA analyses, as applicable.

We have the following comments for your consideration in preparation of the DEIS:

### **Alternatives Analysis**

#### ***Selecting preferred alternative***

We appreciate the identification of two alternatives in addition to the proposed action in the Notice of Intent and EISPN. Under Alternative 1 (Full Retention), the Army would retain all State-owned land within a training area. Under Alternative 2 (Modified Retention), the Army would retain all State-owned land within a training area except land on which limited training occurs and where Army natural resources management actions are required to support training. Under Alternative 3 (Minimum

Retention and Access), the Army would retain the minimum amount of State-owned land in a training area required for the Army to continue to meet its current ongoing mission critical training requirements.

The specific land areas and tracts under consideration are identified in the EISPN. In the KTA, Tracts A-1 and A-3 are state lands and the EISPN indicates that A-1 contains critical maneuver areas. Alternative 2 would not retain Tract A-3 in KTA, which contains part of a designated ecological Management Unit (MU), the Kaleleiki MU, and is fenced to protect endangered plant species managed by the State. For Poamoho, the proposed NAR tract is not currently used for military training; therefore, current levels and types of training would not be affected if not retained under Alternative 2 for this training area. The NAR tract also contains nearly all of the 18 plant taxa that have been listed on the federal endangered species list along with one candidate species (EISPN, p. 3-2). Alternative 2 for MMR also appears to meet the purpose and need for Army training. We recommend, at a minimum, that the Army consider Alternative 2 as preferred for the KTA and Poamoho, and to consider the importance of MMR to the Native Hawaiian community and culture when determining the preferred alternative for MMR.

### ***Mechanism of retention***

The NOI and EISPN also indicate that a variety of land retention methods are possible but would not be negotiated until after completion of the EIS process. To the extent that the method of retention could affect environmental resources, the Army may want to include an evaluation of alternatives for retention. At a minimum, provide a brief discussion of possible environmental impacts of the most likely methods of retention.

### **Range Contamination and Off-Range Migration**

#### ***Range contamination***

In the affected environment section, the DEIS should clearly identify all contaminated areas on the sites and in the immediate vicinity that have the potential to affect State-owned lands. Summarize the existing levels of contamination that resulted from military use since the ranges became operational and since the initial land retention, including the contamination left by military munitions and explosives of concern (unexploded ordnance and other hazardous munitions materials left behind from military live-fire training or testing, open burning and open detonation, and munitions treatment, destruction and burial activities). Describe any cleanup activities that have been done in the past or any cleanup that would be done prior to or during the proposed future retention period.

#### ***Off-range migration***

Include a summary and discussion of the current or most recent Operational Range Assessments for the training areas and a summary of other reports that address potential for off-range migration of munitions constituents. We recommend including the ORA's in the appendices or posting them along with other relevant documents and reports on the project website. Discuss off-range migration including via the air/dust pathway and stormwater runoff pathway. Consider exposure pathways for both human and ecological receptors.

#### ***Makua Military Reservation (MMR)***

We appreciate that the EISPN states that the Army monitors for migration of substances associated with munitions constituents at MMR, which will be discussed in the DEIS (p. 3-5). EPA reviewed the Draft, Draft Supplemental, and Final EISs for the *Military Training Activities at Makua Military Reservation, Hawai'i* in 2005, 2008 and 2009 respectively and expressed concerns regarding the introduction of additional weapons-related contaminants to soil and water already contaminated by military activities. Based on the studies associated with the FEIS, there were indications that weapons-related contaminants



were entering water resources and migrating off-site. The Marine Resources Study concluded that marine resources relied upon by area residents for subsistence were being contaminated by substances associated with Army training at the MMR and there is a small increase in cancer risk to people who consume fish and shellfish collected from Muliwai or nearshore locations adjacent to MMR. At that time, we had recommended the Army commit to prompt removal of soils at MMR that contain increased levels of contamination (“hotspots”) to reduce potential for further pollutant migration. The Army identified remedial action at the open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) area as potential mitigation for chemical contamination of water resources, but it is not clear whether this mitigation took place.

In the discussion updating the status of the off-site contamination issues at MMR, include actions taken to address the off-site migration of pollutants, cite to any additional studies conducted since the Marine Resources Study occurred, and address contamination of shellfish relied upon by area residents for subsistence. Identify this potential exposure in the Environmental Justice analysis. Identify what measures the Army is taking for the protection of groundwater, surface waters and Muliwai at MMR and how the land retention alternatives could affect the potential for contaminated fish and shellfish consumption. Identify how the Army would reduce or remediate any contamination on parcels not retained under Alternatives 2 and 3.

### ***Perfluorinated compounds***

The EISPN identifies a “foam storage facility” at MMR (p. 3-14). Update the contamination and migration discussions to include contamination by Perfluorinated Compounds (FPOs) including Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) surfactants used for fire suppression activities associated with training. PFOA and PFAS contamination should be addressed at all training sites. Indicate whether these pollutants have entered groundwater that serves as a drinking water source and include this information in the Environmental Justice discussion.

### **Wildfire Risks in a Changing Climate**

The EISPN indicates that the safety risk of wildfire danger at KTA varies from low to high, depending on moisture regime and fuel types. It also states that “Poamoho is at a high elevation and wildfire risk is considered low” but references a 2003 document for this statement. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, current conditions on Oahu as of this writing (August 2021) range from abnormally dry to severe drought<sup>1</sup>. The assessment of wildfire risk in the DEIS should reflect the most recent conditions and consider the contributions from climate change. There may be a need to incorporate more protective measures to prevent wildfire risk on State and other training lands. Additional categories of activities, in addition to impact areas and use of incendiary munitions, may need to be considered when evaluating wildfire risk under these new conditions.

### **Cultural Resources and Consultation with Native Hawaiian Community**

We appreciate that a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) will be prepared pursuant to State law and will identify “areas of traditional importance” (EISPN p. 3-3). The DEIS should document compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA requires that, in carrying out the requirements of Section 106, each federal agency must consult with any Native Hawaiian organization that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by the agency’s undertakings. MMR holds particular significance for Hawaiian cultural practitioners since, according to oral tradition, it is considered the place where human life was first created. Discuss the current arrangement for access to cultural sites at MMR and user’s perceptions of the adequacy of access to fulfill traditional needs. We recommend the DEIS describe the process and progress of Section 106

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/drought/>



consultation between the Army and any Native Hawaiian organizations that have shown an interest in the action, identify issues that were raised, and indicate how those issues are addressed in the development of the proposed action and alternatives. We note that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has a handbook for consultation with Native Hawaiian organizations in the Section 106 process<sup>2</sup> that may be useful, in particular *Section VII: Principles and Tips for Successful Consultation*.

### **Equity and Environmental Justice**

We recommend the environmental justice analysis in the DEIS consider the history of U.S. government relations with Native Hawaiian organizations and the current social climate regarding military use of Hawaiian lands. Discuss the terms of the original 1965 leases, the inequities associated with the original leases, and how a more equitable exchange could provide value to the Hawaiian people such as via fair market compensation, land exchanges and funding for Native Hawaiian community benefits. Additionally, as mentioned above, address potential for subsistence consumption of contaminated fish and shellfish off MMR and discuss whether drinking water sources has been impacted by munitions constituents or PFOA/PFAS for all training areas.

### **Noise Impacts**

The EISPN identifies high density helicopter flights at KTA and a low-level helicopter route at Poamoho Training Areas as the primary noise sources, and states that minimal noise is generated on State-owned land at MMR from unmanned aerial vehicle flights. As part of the noise impact assessment, we recommend the DEIS provide a summary and discussion of noise complaints that have occurred historically for the training areas. The Air Force should ensure that the region of influence in the analysis includes those areas generating noise complaints. When noise impacts are assessed, we strongly recommend against averaging predicted noise levels over long periods of time when training is not occurring when determining significance of impacts. Estimated noise levels should reflect sound as it generally would be experienced by human receptors (taking into account any nighttime penalty incorporated into metrics). Consult the *Guidance for Helicopter Community Noise Prediction*<sup>3</sup> to ensure the appropriate noise metrics for helicopter noise are included. Discuss noise impacts to wildlife.

### **Impacts to Recreation**

In addition to the resources identified in the NOI and EISPN for evaluation in the DEIS, we recommend recreational resources be included. The EISPN indicates that a number of areas on State-owned lands are used for recreation. KTA has various recreational uses occurring in and around the area: recreation facilities in Tract A-1 include the Kahuku Motocross Park, operated by Hawai'i Motorsports Association, and Tract A-3 is located within the Pūpūkea-Paumalū Forest Reserve for which recreational activities are managed by DLNR. At Poamoho, two recreational hiking trails are managed by the State as part of the Nā Ala Hele Trail & Access program.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of the DEIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 947-4178 or [vitulano.karen@epa.gov](mailto:vitulano.karen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

KAREN  
VITULANO

Karen Vitulano  
Environmental Review Branch

Digitally signed by KAREN  
VITULANO  
Date: 2021.08.26 11:19:35  
-07'00'

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/02/f30/Native%20Hawaiian%20Consultation%20Handbook.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/acrp/docs/ACRP02-44\\_FR.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/acrp/docs/ACRP02-44_FR.pdf)



# USGS

The USGS has no comment at this time. Thank you.

## Wahl, Gregory T CIV USARMY USAG (USA)

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**From:** Kopec, Brett A <bkopec@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 2, 2021 1:24 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Janowicz, Jon A  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fw: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (ER) NEW POSTING NOTIFICATION: ER21/0297 - NOI to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Res...

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Brett Kopec  
USGS  
Administrative Operations Assistant

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**From:** Gordon, Alison D <agordon@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 5:14 PM  
**To:** Kopec, Brett A <bkopec@usgs.gov>  
**Cc:** Janowicz, Jon A <jjanowicz@usgs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (ER) NEW POSTING NOTIFICATION: ER21/0297 - NOI to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island...

The USGS has no comment at this time. Thank you.

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**From:** oepchq@ios.doi.gov <oepchq@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2021 7:52 AM  
**To:** Reddick, Virginia <Virginia\_Reddick@ios.doi.gov>; Treichel, Lisa C <Lisa\_Treichel@ios.doi.gov>; Alam, Shawn K <Shawn\_Alam@ios.doi.gov>; Braegelmann, Carol <carol\_braegelmann@ios.doi.gov>; Kelly, Cheryl L <cheryl\_kelly@ios.doi.gov>; ERs, FWS HQ <FWS\_HQ\_ERs@fws.gov>; Runkel, Roxanne <Roxanne\_Runkel@nps.gov>; Stedeford, Melissa <Melissa\_Stedeford@nps.gov>; Kaloi, Kaiini J <Kaiini\_Kaloi@ios.doi.gov>; Gordon, Alison D <agordon@usgs.gov>; Janowicz, Jon A <jjanowicz@usgs.gov>; oepchq@ios.doi.gov <oepchq@ios.doi.gov>; Schroeder, Glenn A <glenn\_schroeder@ios.doi.gov>; Whitlock, Janet L <janet\_whitlock@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (ER) NEW POSTING NOTIFICATION: ER21/0297 - NOI to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of...

This e-mail alerts you to a Environmental Review (ER) request from the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPIC). This ER can be accessed [here](https://ecl.doi.gov/ER_summary.cfm?id=36943). < Caution-  
[https://ecl.doi.gov/ER\\_summary.cfm?id=36943](https://ecl.doi.gov/ER_summary.cfm?id=36943) >

To access electronic ERs visit the Environmental Assignments website:Caution-  
<https://ecl.doi.gov/ERs.cfm> < Caution-<https://ecl.doi.gov/ERs.cfm> > . For assistance, please contact the  
Environmental Review Team at 202-208-5464.  
Comments due to Agency by: 09/01/21

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# **State of Hawai'i Agencies**

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# State of Hawai'i Agencies

Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.....	HI-1
State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Clean Air Branch.....	HI-2
State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office .....	HI-5
State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation .....	HI-8
State of Hawai'i, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development .....	HI-12

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## Khara Jabola-Carolus

"Aloha. My name is Khara Jabola-Carolus. I am leaving formal testimony on behalf of the Hawaii state Commission on the Status of Women. Again, my name is Khara Jabola-Carolus and I am the Executive Director of the state of Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women. I believe that the human environment includes women and the impact of army training land retention directly impacts women on O'ahu. I do not believe, on behalf of our agency that this is a reach. In fact, I believe it is in close alignment with the women's Peace and Security Act of 2017 which calls for a gender perspective in everything the DOD does quote unquote. earlier this year, the state conducted its first gender impact assessment. as a corollary to a project that would be proposed for a casino in the Waianae area and this is an example of why and how women safety should be evaluated as part of the EIS process. Continued military training on the Oahu project sites contributes to the crisis of sex trafficking in women and children in Hawaii. Since 2019 four different sting operations have been conducted jointly between the DOD and civilian law enforcement in Hawaii. Resulting in 24 arrests and 16 convictions and a sizable portion of the pedophiles, who were arrested and convicted have been active military active duty military personnel. Three months ago there was a multi agency undercover operation targeting Child Sexual predators resulted in the arrest three arrest to active duty soldiers and one marine. 20% of arrest of child sexual predators in May 2019 were members of the Navy alone. These operations, not just impact women but require tremendous resources diverted from women safety from our state. The military training at the sites directly tied to retention of this land creates a demand hub for sex trafficking. Not just because of the long history and military culture around sex buying, but also because it is a male dominated sector, and a sector dominated by transit men who do not have accountability and ties to the local community. Furthermore, children and military families are also highly susceptible to commercial sexual exploitation, because their parents are not always present. Most of all, the heaviest price is paid by Native Hawaiian and local women and girls for the continuation of training on these sites. Through increased sex trafficking and domestic violence and the drain on resources to serve this population. Accordingly, the Commission on the Status of Women request that the human environment considerations include women and their safety. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify

## Hawaii DOH, Clean Air Branch

Aloha Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the subject project. Please see our standard comments

at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2019/08/Standard-Comments-Clean-Air-Branch-2019.pdf> Please let me know if you have any Questions Lisa M.M. Wallace EHS QA Officer Clean Air Branch Environmental Health Office Hilo, Hawaii 96720

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**From:** Cab General <Cab.General@doh.hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** daisy.b.pate@usace.army.mil; G70 - ATR Oahu EIS  
**Subject:** Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on Oahu (EIS Preparation Notice)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Aloha

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the subject project.  
Please see our standard comments at:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2019/08/Standard-Comments-Clean-Air-Branch-2019.pdf>

Please let me know if you have any Questions

Lisa M.M. Wallace  
EHS QA Officer  
Clean Air Branch  
Environmental Health Office  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**Standard Comments for Land Use Reviews**  
**Clean Air Branch**  
**Hawaii State Department of Health**

If your proposed project:

Requires an Air Pollution Control Permit

You must obtain an air pollution control permit from the Clean Air Branch and comply with all applicable conditions and requirements. If you do not know if you need an air pollution control permit, please contact the Permitting Section of the Clean Air Branch.

Includes construction or demolition activities that involve asbestos

You must contact the Asbestos Abatement Office in the Indoor and Radiological Health Branch.

Has the potential to generate fugitive dust

You must control the generation of all airborne, visible fugitive dust. Note that construction activities that occur near to existing residences, business, public areas and major thoroughfares exacerbate potential dust concerns. It is recommended that a dust control management plan be developed which identifies and mitigates all activities that may generate airborne, visible fugitive dust. The plan, which does *not* require Department of Health approval, should help you recognize and minimize potential airborne, visible fugitive dust problems.

Construction activities must comply with the provisions of Hawaii Administrative Rules, §11-60.1-33 on Fugitive Dust. In addition, for cases involving mixed land use, we strongly recommend that buffer zones be established, wherever possible, in order to alleviate potential nuisance complaints.

You should provide reasonable measures to control airborne, visible fugitive dust from the road areas and during the various phases of construction. These measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Planning the different phases of construction, focusing on minimizing the amount of airborne, visible fugitive dust-generating materials and activities, centralizing on-site vehicular traffic routes, and locating potential dust-generating equipment in areas of the least impact;
- b) Providing an adequate water source at the site prior to start-up of construction activities;
- c) Landscaping and providing rapid covering of bare areas, including slopes, starting from the initial grading phase;
- d) Minimizing airborne, visible fugitive dust from shoulders and access roads;
- e) Providing reasonable dust control measures during weekends, after hours, and prior to daily start-up of construction activities; and
- f) Controlling airborne, visible fugitive dust from debris being hauled away from the project site.

If you have questions about fugitive dust, please contact the Enforcement Section of the Clean Air Branch

Clean Air Branch (808) 586-4200 <a href="mailto:cab@doh.hawaii.gov">cab@doh.hawaii.gov</a>	Indoor Radiological Health Branch (808) 586-4700
--	---

# Hawaii Department of Health HEER Office

Please see attached.

Text of attached:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH), Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) referenced above and has the following comments:

1. It is the understanding of the HEER Office that at least two of the three properties described in the EISPN have been identified to have hazardous contamination present, including potential unexploded ordnance (UXO). Please ensure that all known areas of contamination at each site have been identified to the HEER Office.
2. The EISPN states that other potential sources of contamination and Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) are present at the site that still need to be assessed, such as pesticide mixing and storage areas at the Kahuku Training Area. Please ensure that these areas are investigated, and remediated as necessary, prior to transfer of the properties back to the State. Any previously unidentified releases that are discovered during those investigations (i.e., contaminant concentrations greater than the Tier 1 Environmental Action Levels [EALs]) must be reported to the HEER Office following our Release Notification process (see <https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/how-to-report-a-release-spill/>).
3. If the properties, or portions of the properties, will be returned to the State, please include requirements for the clean-up of UXO, Munitions Debris (MD), and other environmental contaminants at the site prior to the return of the property.
4. For sites that have had remediations conducted and may have been closed out with contamination left in place and managed with Land Use Controls (LUCs), including so-called "CRECs," please review the remedies at such site to ensure that they will still be protective under potential future land use and when the Army is no longer in control of the sites. For example, where UXO may be present at Makua and KTA, under Army control, a remedy of LUCs that prohibit excavation or use of an area may be sufficient; however, once returned to the State, additional LUCs, such as Army-provided UXO Construction Support, or even additional remediation may be necessary to be protective of future potential receptors. As stated above, please ensure any necessary changes to the remedy at such sites are made prior to returning land to the State and that any on-going responsibility of the Army, such as provision of UXO Construction Support, conducting annual LUC inspections, etc., are documented in an agreement prior to transfer of the properties.

Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 808-586-5815, or contact me via e-mail at [sven.lindstrom@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:sven.lindstrom@doh.hawaii.gov).



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:  
**180835/180836 SL**

August 30, 2021

Ms. Amy Bugala  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii  
ALTR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3444

Facility/Site: **Makua Military Reservation MMRP and Kahuku Training Area,  
Building 12450 Site KTA-01**

Subject: **Comments on Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice  
for the Army Training Land Retention (A TLR) of State Lands at  
Kahuku Training Area (KT A), Kawaihoa Poamoho Training Area  
(Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR), Island of  
O'ahu; TMKs: (1) 5-8-002:002; (1) 5-9-006:026; (1) 7-2-001 :006; (1)  
8-1-001:007; (1) 8-1-001:008; (1) 8-2-001: 001; (1) 8-2-001:022; (1) 8-2-  
001:024; (1) 8-2-001 :025., dated June 22, 2021**

Dear Ms. Bugala:

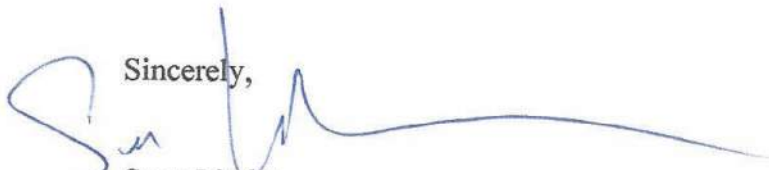
The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH), Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) referenced above and has the following comments:

1. It is the understanding of the HEER Office that at least two of the three properties described in the EISPN have been identified to have hazardous contamination present, including potential unexploded ordnance (UXO). Please ensure that all known areas of contamination at each site have been identified to the HEER Office.
2. The EISPN states that other *potential* sources of contamination and Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) are present at the site that still need to be assessed, such as pesticide mixing and storage areas at the Kahuku Training Area. Please ensure that these areas are investigated, and remediated as necessary, **prior to** transfer of the properties back to the State. Any previously unidentified releases that are discovered during those investigations (i.e., contaminant concentrations greater than the Tier 1 Environmental Action Levels [EALs]) must be reported to the HEER Office following our Release Notification process (see <https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/how-to-report-a-release-spill/>).

3. If the properties, or portions of the properties, will be returned to the State, please include requirements for the clean-up of UXO, Munitions Debris (MD), and other environmental contaminants at the site **prior to** the return of the property.
4. For sites that have had remediations conducted and may have been closed out with contamination left in place and managed with Land Use Controls (LUCs), including so-called "CRECs," please review the remedies at such site to ensure that they will still be protective under potential future land use and when the Army is no longer in control of the sites. For example, where UXO may be present at Makua and KTA, under Army control, a remedy of LUCs that prohibit excavation or use of an area may be sufficient; however, once returned to the State, additional LUCs, such as Army-provided UXO Construction Support, or even additional remediation may be necessary to be protective of future potential receptors. As stated above, please ensure any necessary changes to the remedy at such sites are made **prior to** returning land to the State and that any on-going responsibility of the Army, such as provision of UXO Construction Support, conducting annual LUC inspections, etc., are documented in an agreement prior to transfer of the properties.

Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 808-586-5815, or contact me via e-mail at [sven.lindstrom@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:sven.lindstrom@doh.hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,



Sven Lindstrom  
Voluntary Cleanup Program Specialist  
Site Discovery, Assessment, and Remediation  
Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office  
Hawaii Department of Health

**From:** [Torres, Natasha P](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] STP 8.3235 Army Training Land Retention (21-069)rev (part 1) - signed  
**Date:** Friday, August 6, 2021 16:32:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [STP 8.3235 Army Training Land Retention \(21-069\)rev \(part 1\) - signed.pdf](#)

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Aloha,

Please see attached for your viewing and handling. No hard copy will be transmitted.

Thank you,  
Natasha Torres  
Statewide Transportation Planning Office  
Hawai'i Department of Transportation  
Phone: (808) 831-7973 | Fax: (808) 831-7995





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
DIR 0725  
STP 8.3235

August 6, 2021

VIA EMAIL: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

Daisy Pate  
U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii  
Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Building 105, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Wheeler Army Airfield  
948 Santos Dumont Ave.  
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857-5013

Dear Ms. Pate:

Subject: Army Training Land Retention on State Land on Oahu – Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISP)  
Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area and Makua Military Reservation  
Tax Map Key: (1) 5-8-002:002, (1) 5-9-006:026, (1) 7-2-001:006, (1) 8-1-001:007, (1) 8-1-001:008, (1) 8-2-001, 022, 024, and 025.

The State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) understands the United States Department of the Army (U.S. Army) is requesting comments for the EISP regarding the Army's proposed retention of approximately 6,300 acres of State-owned lands currently leased to the Army for military training purposes. The existing lease agreement will expire in 2029. The U.S. Army proposes retaining the lands beyond 2029 for training under a new long-term real estate agreement. The proposed action does not include changes in types or intensity of land use, new construction, and resource management activities.

The U.S. Army leases the following three non-contiguous training ranges on Oahu:

1. Kahuku Training Area (KTA), in northeast Oahu, is accessed from Kamehameha Highway (State Route 83) and Charlie Road from the north, and Drum Road extending to Schofield Barracks from the south. The KTA includes federal lands in addition to the 1,170 acres of State land.
2. Kawaihoa Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), in central Oahu, is accessible from Schofield Barracks. All 4,370 acres are leased from the State.
3. Makua Military Reservation, in northwest Oahu, is accessed from Farrington Highway (State Route 93). Approximately, 760 of the 4,190 acres are leased from the State.

The following are the three action alternatives proposed for each location, based on the amount of State-owned land to be retained by the U.S. Army: full retention (existing conditions), modified retention and minimum retention. The No Action Alternative would allow the current lease to expire in 2029 and terminate U.S. Army use and management of the State lands.

HDOT's Highways Division reviewed the EISPN and has the following comments relevant to State highways for consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

1. Based on the project description, the proposed action would not increase U.S. Army-related traffic on State roads above the existing levels. Alternative 1 would represent a continuation of existing conditions extended 50 or more years under the new real estate contract.
2. The Draft EIS should include a qualitative traffic impact analysis, including the following information:
  - a. Access routes to the training ranges and jurisdiction of the affected roadways. Note bicycle and pedestrian paths along the routes.
  - b. Current U.S. Army-related traffic on State roadways during peak traffic hours, when the training area is in use. This would reflect Alternative 1 conditions. Include the number of trips and types of vehicles.
  - c. Existing traffic conditions and public safety on State roadways en route to the training areas. This would include observations by U.S. Army personnel regarding traffic conditions and community complaints regarding U.S. Army traffic, if applicable.
  - d. Anticipated changes (if any) to project-related traffic associated with Alternatives 2 and 3. Identify changes to access routes required under Alternatives 2 and 3.
  - e. Assessment of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of U.S. Army-related traffic on public safety and traffic conditions in 2029.
3. We recommend the proposed action include management strategies to minimize impacts to State highways, such as scheduling training to avoid peak traffic hours.
4. Verify with the HDOT Highways Division, Oahu District Office (phone (808) 831-6700) that the training area access road intersections with State roads meet current standards for the type and volume of traffic proposed. The HDOT Highways Division may require additional analysis by a professional engineer to verify the intersections meet public safety conditions.

If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Blayne Nikaido of the HDOT Statewide Transportation Planning Office at (808) 831-7979 or via email at [blayne.h.nikaido@hawaii.gov](mailto:blayne.h.nikaido@hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jade T. Butay", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JADE T. BUTAY  
Director of Transportation

c: Jeff Merz, G70 (via email: [ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design](mailto:ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design))

**From:** [Hekeia, Joshua K](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Nakano, Mei-Lynn E](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] DTS 202107271316HE - USAG-HI - ATLR Comment Letter Response - OPSD  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:03:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[07271316HE - DEIS - USAG Hawaii - Land Retention Study, Oahu \(part 1\) - signed.pdf](#)

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Dear Sirs,

Please see attached agency comment letter from our Director, Mary Alice Evans, on the US Army Garrison – Hawaii Army Land Training Retention Study .

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via the information listed below.



**Joshua K. Hekeia**

Planner

Office of Planning & Sustainable Development

235 S. Beretania Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Ph. (808) 587-2846

[Joshua.K.Hekeia@hawaii.gov](mailto:Joshua.K.Hekeia@hawaii.gov) < Caution-mailto:Joshua.K.Hekeia@hawaii.gov >



# STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DTS 202107271316HE

Coastal Zone  
Management  
Program

August 31, 2021

Environmental  
Review Program

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801-3444

Land Use  
Commission

Land Use Division

Dear Sirs:

Special Plans  
Branch

Subject: U.S. Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu  
TMKs: (1) 5-8-002:002; (1) 5-9-006:026; (1) 7-2-001 :006;  
(1) 8-1-001:007; (1) 8-1-001:008; (1) 8-2-001: 001; (1) 8-2-001:022; (1) 8-2-001:024; (1) 8-2-001 :025.

State Transit-  
Oriented  
Development

Statewide  
Geographic  
Information System

Statewide  
Sustainability  
Program

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the request for agency comments on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISP) for the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI) Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) study for the Island of O'ahu.

It is our understanding that the forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is intended to satisfy the environmental disclosure requirements for Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321-4347), Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Sections 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 989, et seq.

The EIS will disclose environmental impacts that may occur if the U.S. Army retains leases for the subject land for training purposes at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR), Island of O'ahu. The Army proposes to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of State-owned lands at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR in support of continued military training and combat preparedness.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) has reviewed the public scoping and outreach material from the USAG-HI project website, as well as the EISP for the ATLR study. Based on these sources we offer the following comments:

1. State Land Use

Pursuant to HRS Chapter 205, the State is required to preserve, protect, and encourage the development of the lands in the State for those uses to which they are best suited for the public welfare, including the designation and protection of Important Agricultural Lands. We note that Section 3.1, page 3-1 of the EISPN acknowledges that the KTA is designated as being within the State Land Use Conservation District, as well as in the Agriculture district. MMR and Poamoho are in the Conservation District, and all three ALTR subject areas include State leased lands.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should detail and disclose the potential impacts from the extension of the land leases on the agricultural and conservation districts, and include maps of the three training areas in relation with the State Land Use Districts.

For the Agriculture district, specifically lands in or near KTA, the DEIS should disclose any current agricultural uses; permitted non-agricultural uses near the training area; as well as provide information on soil classifications, and productivity ratings.

For conservation district lands, the DEIS should disclose any conflicts with the administration of Conservation Lands, as detailed in Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) 13-5 and disclose impacts on forest and water reserve zones.

2. Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program

Chapter 4, page 4-1 of the EISPN lists Coastal Zone Management (CZM) as a "relevant federal, State, and City and County of Honolulu land use plans, policies, and controls that the EIS will examine the proposed action's conformance with."

We agree that the EIS should disclose impact on the coastal zone. Furthermore, the objectives and supporting policies of the Hawai'i CZM Program, HRS § 205A-2, serve as the foundation of the enforceable policies of the State of Hawai'i.

Disclosure of impacts on the CZM policies, as it relates to HRS Chapter 343 requirements, will aid the State in determining exposed impact to the resources of the coastal zone, and mitigation measures on the subject lands involved in the ATLR study.

Topic matters of interest for the Hawai'i CZM Program, as they relate to the ATLR study include, but not limited to:

a. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) – Federal Consistency

Pursuant to CZMA section 307(c); 15 CFR Part 930, Subpart C establishes a federal consistency requirement that federal actions affecting any coastal use or resource must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of State approved coastal zone management programs. This federal regulation provides approved



coastal zone programs with the authority to conduct CZMA federal consistency reviews. The OPSD Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is the lead State agency with the authority to conduct this review.

The EIS and CZMA federal consistency review should evaluate the impact on the potential effects on coastal uses and resources. Examples of these concerns, as they relate to the ATLR land study, include:

- i. Coastal Uses: include limitations on public access to the three Army training areas, impacts to recreational activities, historic or cultural practices, floodplain management, scenic, aesthetic enjoyment of these areas, as well as impacts to the natural resources within the ATLR study areas.
- ii. Coastal Resources: which include, but not limited to, biological or physical resources, e.g., air, tidal and nontidal wetlands, ocean waters, estuaries, streams, aquifers, submerged aquatic vegetation, plants, trees, offshore marine life, amphibians, birds, and mammals.

We recommend that USAG-HI consult with our office on the policies and procedures applicable to CZMA federal consistency reviews.

- b. Endangered Species / Nearshore Habitats: under HRS § 195D-4, Endangered and Threatened Species; the State is required to provide additional protection to creatures that fall under the Endangered Species Act, and preserve habitats that are threatened with destruction, modification, or curtailment of range. For the State to assess the impact on these habitats ensuing from the continued use of the subject ATLR parcels, the DEIS should detail the fauna impacted by the use of military's use of the subject ATLR parcels. It is noted that habitats in or near the training sites include fauna such as the Newell's shearwater and Hawaiian hoary bat.

The DEIS should consider the proximity of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge near the KTA site, which serves as a critical habitat for endangered waterbirds, migratory seabirds, endangered and native plant species, and the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. The DEIS should describe and assess the impacts to the protected species ensuing from military training operations, as applicable.

The eight species, that are known to have habitats within the subject ALTR study areas and warrant additional protection under HRS §195D include: 'A'o or Newell's shearwaters; Koloa Maoli or Hawaiian ducks; Ae'o or Hawaiian black-necked stilts; 'Alae ke'oke'o or Hawaiian coots; 'Alae 'ula or Hawaiian common moorhens; Pueo or Hawaiian short-eared owls; 'Ōpe'ape'a or Hawaiian hoary bats; and Nēnē or Hawaiian geese.

c. Cultural and Historic Resources

The review material from USAG-HI project website states that in the required National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation, USAG-HI will confer with parties, that include the State Historic Preservation Division, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and community groups with a demonstrated interest in the project and seek input from the general public. The inventory of cultural and historic resources for all three ALTR sites and their immediate surroundings should be evaluated in regard to potential impact on vital historic and cultural resources in the DEIS and/or Section 106 NHPA documentation.

3. Stormwater Runoff, Erosion, and Water Resources

We acknowledge that in Section 3.13.3, page 3-12 states that there are no constructed stormwater infrastructure at any of the three ATLR study areas. They rely on natural streams and gulches, box culverts, and natural detention areas to capture stormwater runoff. However, Section 3.4, pages 3-4 to 3-5 states that the DEIS will provide information on the affected environment concerning general definitions, conditions, and character of hazardous materials, toxic substances, hazardous waste, generated by military training that may have impacted the streams, gulches, and natural detention basins.

Furthermore, Section 3.9, pages 3-9 and 3-10 acknowledge that the average annual rainfall at KTA ranges from 40 to 50 inches near the coast to 150 inches at the summit of the Ko'olau Mountains. The central plateau region, where Poamoho is located, has average rainfall ranging from 50 inches in the lower elevations to 250 inches at higher elevations. As for MMR, rainfall near the beach is low with an estimated 20 inches per year, and moderate in the eastern higher elevations of the valley with less than 50 inches per year.

Given that all three ATLR study areas may have toxic material associated with military training and readiness activities, the presence of these materials may have a deleterious effect on the natural water resources in all three areas. The perennial streams in and around KTA and Poamoho may carry these toxins downslope during intense storm events and impact human health, as well as the marine environment.

Pursuant to Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1501.3(b)(1) – in considering the potentially affected environment, agencies should consider, as appropriate to the specific action, the affected area (national, regional, or local) and its resources; to ensure that nearshore marine resources of O'ahu remain protected, the negative effects of stormwater inundation and sediment loading near the proposed project site should be evaluated. This subject matter also applies to HAR § 11-200.1-24(l) – probable cumulative impact of the proposed action on the environment and impacts of the natural or human environment.

Issues that may be examined include, but are not limited to, the three ATLR study area vulnerabilities to flood and erosion, potential susceptibility of water resources and the nearshore area to degradation and impairment, and intensification of the volume and velocity



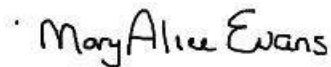
of stormwater runoff due to the increase or decrease of impermeable surfaces caused by any potential land development within these training areas. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 1501.3(b)(2)(i) and HAR § 11-200.1-24(p), if necessary, mitigation for any negative effects caused by the proposed action in both the short and long term should be considered.

4. Economic Impacts

We note that Section 3.8, page 3-8 of the EISPN, the DEIS will provide information for socioeconomics and environmental justice related to KTA, Poamoho, and MMR. As defined by HAR § 11-200-2, the environment includes economic conditions. Pursuant to HAR § 11-200-17(f), the DEIS should discuss the economic impacts and benefits from the continued use of the military training sites, as well any economic losses if the leases were not renewed.

If you have any questions regarding this comment letter, please contact Joshua Hekeia of our office at (808) 587-2845 on NEPA EIS matters, or Debra Mendes at (808) 587-2840 on CZMA federal consistency matters.

Sincerely,



Mary Alice Evans  
Director

c: Jeff Merz, Senior Planner/Project Manager

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## **City and County of Honolulu Agencies**

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# City and County of Honolulu Agencies

Board of Water Supply..... CNTY-1

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## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com



August 6, 2021

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair  
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair  
RAY C. SOON  
MAX J. SWORD  
NA'ALEHU ANTHONY

JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio  
ROGER BABCOCK, Jr., Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *EV*

Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3444

Dear United States Army:

Subject: Email Notice Dated July 23, 2021 Regarding the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area, Kailua-Poamoho Training Area, and the Makua Military Reservation on the Island of Oahu

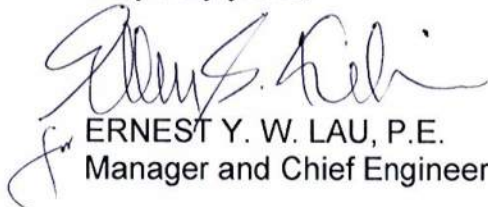
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed land retention.

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) does not have a water system in the areas around the Army training lands. Therefore, all water services shall be provided by the private water system in the area.

For your information, the BWS has four (4) source wells along the northern boundary of the Kahuku Training Area. Any proposed developments shall verify with the State Department of Health regarding wastewater disposal systems that are allowable within the "No Pass Zone". Ground disposal of wastewater could detrimentally impact the underlying freshwater aquifer; therefore, no wastewater system shall be within 1,000 feet of BWS potable water sources.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Chun, Project Review Branch of our Water Resources Division at 748-5443.

Very truly yours,

  
ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer



U.S. POSTAGE  PITNEY BOWES

Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P. O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3444

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## **Elected Officials**

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# Elected Officials

State Representative Cedric Gates,  
Hawaii House District 44 and  
State Senator Maile Shimabukuro,  
Hawaii Senate District 21 ..... EO-1

State Representative Amy Perruso,  
Hawaii House District 46 ..... EO-4

State Senator Kurt Fevella,  
Hawaii Senate District 19 ..... EO-5

Honolulu City Councilmember  
Heidi Tsuneyoshi, County District 2 ..... EO-11

Honolulu City Councilmember  
Heidi Tsuneyoshi, County District 2 ..... EO-14

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**From:** [James Hamada](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Cedric Gates](#); [Sen. Maile Shimabukuro](#); [Keahi Renaud](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the U.S. Army's EIS Public Scoping  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 15:35:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [Makua Valley - \(002\).pdf](#)

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Aloha!

Please find attached comments for the U.S. Army's Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping (86 FR 39007) from State Representative Gates and State Senator Shimabukuro.

Mahalo nui loa, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there are any questions, concerns, or issues of note.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Hamada

**Office of State Representative Cedric Gates**

District 44: Mākua, Mākahā, Wai‘anae, and parts of Mā‘ili

Hawai‘i State Capitol, Room 441

Phone: (808) 586-8460 | Fax: (808) 586-8464

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**HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE**  
STATE CAPITOL, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Public Affairs  
745 Wright Ave.  
Wahiawā, HI 96786  
Bldg. 107, Room 221  
usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil

FROM: Representative Cedric Gates  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro

DATE: September 1, 2021

RE: **86 FR 39007 U.S. Army Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping**

Aloha,

We are writing in opposition to the U.S. Army's retention of the Makua Military Reservation (MMR) located in the Mākua and Kahanahāiki Ahupua'a. While we acknowledge the realities of national defense preparedness, we share in concerns raised by the Wai'anae Coast community that this sacred land should be returned for traditional Native Hawaiian uses and preservation.

Mākua has long been known by cultural practitioners as a place where Papa (Earth mother) and Wākea (sky father) created human life. The Makua Military Reservation contains approximately one hundred sites that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including Hawaiian temples, shrines, and petroglyphs. There are at least thirty-two listed endangered plants, two endangered birds, one endangered mammal, and one endangered invertebrate snail located in the Makua Military Reservation area. In addition, there are records of ten plant species recognized as species of concern, five plant candidate species recognized for threatened or endangered species status, and one animal species of concern in the Makua Military Reservation area. We recognize that the U.S. Army has devoted substantial resources to the protection and preservation of native and endangered species and offers recurring opportunities for community access. However, given the sanctity of this area, we believe that full and complete return of Mākua and Kahanahāiki is the only way to rehabilitate, preserve, and respect the land and the interests of the Native Hawaiian community.

Governor Ige recently signed Act 93 (2021) which requests a report containing the inventory of state land leased by the federal government, any known contaminants or environmental hazards associated with the inventoried lands, as well as input on its use if returned to the state. The State Legislature has introduced multiple measures regarding the preservation and restoration of Mākua Valley. These include:

House Bill 200	2001
House Resolution 102/House Concurrent Resolution 128	2007
House Bill 479	2007
House Resolution 186	2007
Senate Bill 2189	2008
Senate Bill 86	2009
Senate Bill 1000	2009

House Bill 906	2009
House Bill 1394	2011
House Bill 509	2013
House Bill 1430	2015
House Concurrent Resolution 183	2016
House Resolution 49/House Concurrent Resolution 84	2019
House Bill 1236	2019
Senate Bill 1435	2019
House Resolution 161/House Concurrent Resolution 182	2020
House Bill 547	2021
Senate Bill 902	2021

We would also like to note our concern over the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process the Army is currently engaged in. We respectfully urge consideration that the Army:

- 1). Extend the public scoping period so as to engage in safe and meaningful public scoping in the Wai‘anae community by holding a public comment meeting in our district, and
- 2). Consider utilizing a site-specific EIS for the Makua Military Reservation instead of a broader programmatic EIS that includes the Kahuku Training Area (KTA) and the Kawaioloa- Paomoho Training Area (Paomoho).

Public involvement in the environmental aspects of Federal decision-making is a key policy goal of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970 and regulations set forth by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Guidance from the CEQ emphasizes providing meaningful, timely, and effective opportunities for the public to provide their input on Environmental Impact Statements. To that end, the Army has offered extensive remote opportunities to provide public comment, and we understand the safety concerns that need to be considered with the delta variant of COVID-19 spreading in our community. However, meaningful public scoping as it relates to the Makua Military Reservation necessitates an in-person meeting directly in the community it is impacting the most. Many in our community, particularly the forebearers and kūpuna who taught and experienced the sacredness and difficult past of Mākua, have a difficult time utilizing modern day technology. The importance of “sharing place” and having person-to-person physical discussions is fundamental in Hawaiian culture. An in-person meeting on the Wai‘anae Coast is crucial in showing the Army is seeking, in good faith, to have a meaningful public scoping opportunity.

In addition, we believe given the history of the Army’s use of Mākua and its intended use, a site or project specific EIS is in order. The history, environment, cultural significance, and community ties to Mākua Valley are distinct from the other two sites in this EIS and should be given unique attention that a broader programmatic EIS does not provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

With Aloha,



Representative Cedric Gates  
House District 44  
Mākua, Mākaha, Wai‘anae, and parts of Mā‘ili



Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
Senate District 21  
Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, Ko Olina, Nanakuli, Mā‘ili, Wai‘anae, Mākaha, Mākua

## Amy Perruso

So I wanted to just first mahalo all of the community members who have shared this evening. I think, as other people have mentioned, this expression is really important. It's really painful for the community.

And I'm trying to put myself in a position where I can be compassionate about the lack of understanding that the military leadership might have about this context, given your short tenure in the islands and lack of historical background, lack of exposure to these issues.

I think that many of the community members would say that that's not an excuse. And I -- I did want to also add that I think that it would be a mistake to think that the sentiment expressed here tonight is that of a small group of people. Speaking as someone who has had conversations with many hundreds of people in my community, I can say with great confidence that the military does not enjoy much sympathy, does not enjoy much support, because of the reasons --because of the reasons stated prior to my comments.

So I think that it's really -- this is an opportunity, Colonel Misigoy, for you to consider the appropriate action -- and I know that we're going to have more opportunity for this conversation tomorrow -- but to really try to understand.

And I also understand that you are operating in isolation in many ways. You're not in our communities. You're not living with us and --and seeing the stratification that we see, this chasm, right, of privilege and how we feel about the destruction of 'aina.

So I'm just asking that you kind of step back and reconsider all the ways in which your vision is impaired and -- and seek to address that.

And I look forward to having this conversation again tomorrow night and would ask explicitly that tomorrow night everybody be able to see each other, that we be in community on the screen and that we'd be able to communicate with each other via the chat. So to have that disabled and to have our images erased, you're both silencing us in a way and invisibilizing us, so erasing us. And that's unconscionable. That's not the way you run community meetings.

So those are my two procedural comments, and -- and I'll leave it at that.



Aloha Colonel Misigoy, Enclosed and transmitted herewith please find the attached letter for your attention. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office. I would also like to request for a meeting at your earliest convenience. I have copied my office manager so that she is in the loop for scheduling purposes. Mahalo, Senator Kurt Fevella  
State of Hawaii, District 19  
Minority Leader/ Minority Floor Leader-----State Capitol, Room 2174  
15 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6360 Fax: (808) 586-6361  
senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov

August 13, 2021

Colonel Daniel Misigoy  
US Army Garrison  
O'ahu ALTR EIS Comments  
PO Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444  
[usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

Aloha Colonel Misigoy:

I am writing in strong opposition of the Army's proposed retention of up to 6,300 acres of state-owned leased land on Oahu at the Kahuku Training Area, the Kawaihoa/Poamoho Training Area, and the Makua Military Reservation and approximately 23,000 acres on Hawaii Island at Pohakuloa Training Range. The military has occupied crown and government lands since 1964 that originally belonged to the Kānaka Maoli. Over the years, the military has continuously violated Hawaii Revised Statutes § 711-1107 that prohibits the desecration of a place of worship or burial and has poisoned and polluted the Hawaiian Islands leaving the community to engage and organize in clean-ups and restoration.

While I recognize the need to protect the United States' efforts to use these islands for various military training, we also need to consider the health and safety of our people, land, air, and water quality that has continually been negatively impacted by military training. The historical training activity by the military on State lands continues to have long-lasting negative effects on the historical value of these Hawaiian Islands.

The history of Kaho'olawe since the start of the US Navy bomb training in 1953, set the precedence of a continuous historical trauma between the Kānaka Maoli (original inhabitants), people of the State and the military's use of State's lands. As a result of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana actions and litigation, President George Bush, Sr. ordered a stop to the bombing of Kaho'olawe in 1990. Kaho'olawe was then turned over to the State of Hawai'i Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission in 1994. Huge efforts and sums of monies were given to remove, clear and restore the lands back to its original state, as these efforts continue today. The damage that was endured on Kaho'olawe sets a standard on what is to be expected in the future should the military continue its present use and will result in further damage and impact to occur to these islands. Kaho'olawe is only one prime example out of the many harmful damage that the military presence has had in Hawai'i and inability to being responsible stewards of our lands.

The military has destroyed our historical and sacred grounds which will take years or even decades to cultivate lands back to its original natural state. Our ancestral iwi was paved or moved to a different area washing away the history of our people. Kānaka Maoli people have been used for decades and we still today haven't been compensated for the generational damage.

It is in the best interest of the Kānaka Maoli, community and Hawai'i that these lands are given back to the people to restore and steward the lands on which they live on. We need to stop the bleeding and insist the U.S. government return these lands and provide the necessary funding for protection and restoration projects.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Senator Kurt Fevella  
State of Hawaii, District 19  
Minority Leader/ Minority Floor Leader

-----  
State Capitol, Room 217  
415 S. Beretania Street,  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6360  
Fax: (808) 586-6361  
[senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov)

---

**From:** Sen. Kurt Fevella <senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 13:48  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Tavake  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] ALTR Military Lease Renewal  
**Attachments:** Letter to ALTR Military Lease Renewal.pdf

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha Colonel Misigoy,

Enclosed and transmitted herewith please find the attached letter for your attention. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office. I would also like to request for a meeting at your earliest convenience. I have copied my office manager so that she is in the loop for scheduling purposes.

Mahalo,

=



Senator Kurt Fevella  
State of Hawaii, District 19  
Minority Leader/ Minority Floor Leader

-----  
State Capitol, Room 217  
415 S. Beretania Street,  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6360  
Fax: (808) 586-6361  
[senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov) < Caution-mailto:senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov >



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 13, 2021

Colonel Daniel Misigoy  
US Army Garrison  
O'ahu ALTR EIS Comments  
PO Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444  
[usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

Aloha Colonel Misigoy:

I am writing in strong opposition of the Army's proposed retention of up to 6,300 acres of state-owned leased land on Oahu at the Kahuku Training Area, the Kawaihoa/Poamoho Training Area, and the Makua Military Reservation and approximately 23,000 acres on Hawaii Island at Pohakuloa Training Range. The military has occupied crown and government lands since 1964 that originally belonged to the Kānaka Maoli. Over the years, the military has continuously violated Hawaii Revised Statutes § 711-1107 that prohibits the desecration of a place of worship or burial and has poisoned and polluted the Hawaiian Islands leaving the community to engage and organize in clean-ups and restoration.

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August 12, 2021

Page 2 of 2

The military has destroyed our historical and sacred grounds which will take years or even decades to cultivate lands back to its original natural state. Our ancestral iwi was paved or moved to a different area washing away the history of our people. Kānaka Maoli people have been used for decades and we still today haven't been compensated for the generational damage.

It is in the best interest of the Kānaka Maoli, community and Hawai'i that these lands are given back to the people to restore and steward the lands on which they live on. We need to stop the bleeding and insist the U.S. government return these lands and provide the necessary funding for protection and restoration projects.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Senator Kurt Fevella  
State of Hawaii, District 19  
Minority Leader/ Minority Floor Leader

-----  
State Capitol, Room 217  
415 S. Beretania Street,  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6360  
Fax: (808) 586-6361  
[senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov)

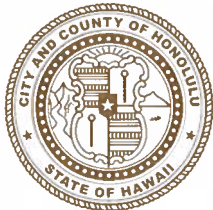
**From:** [Sakata, Michael](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] City Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi Comments on Army Training Land Retention EIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:58:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOC \(36\).pdf](#)

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Aloha,

Please see attached. Mahalo

Michael Sakata  
Senior Advisor  
Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi  
808-768-5037



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

**HEIDI TSUNEYOSHI**  
CITY COUNCILMEMBER  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 2  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5002  
FAX: (808) 768-1182  
EMAIL: [htsune Yoshi@honolulu.gov](mailto:htsune Yoshi@honolulu.gov)

September 1, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Army Training Land Retention, Island of Oahu Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As the Councilmember representing two of the three proposed training locations, Kahuku Training Area (KTA) and Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), I am very interested in the future of these sites and the community's feedback on the proposals to retain these areas beyond the 65-year lease for the State owned lands.

I was able to attend the community engagement meeting held on August 11<sup>th</sup> and was very interested to hear the feedback from the community. The outpouring of concern regarding the possible extension of the leases was overwhelming with all, but one expressing that the land should be returned to the State and no longer used for military training. Those who expressed their opposition included individuals who served in the military and/or had strong ties to the military.

As a lifelong resident of Oahu, specifically Wahiawa, I stand in support of those who took their time to attend and provide comment in opposition of the lease extensions. My opposition should in no way be taken as a lack of support to our military forces as I come from a long line of those of have served and continue to serve. My father served in the United States Navy, which brought him to Oahu where he met my mother, who is Native Hawaiian. I have always had the deepest respect for the connection between our local communities and military operations. My two brothers, my nephew, three brothers-in-law and my father-in-law all served or are actively serving for the military. Additionally, my grandfather and great-uncles also served, which all together total over 100 years of service in my immediate family.

Throughout my personal and professional experiences I have found that the best solutions are found when both sides are heard and the action taken reflects true understanding of both sides. In the situation of the extension of the land leases, I firmly believe that the best path forward is to return the lands when the leases expire. This will show a true effort by the military to acknowledge the long held concerns of the local communities about the overuse of our lands for military purposes. Issues associated with these concerns include the lack of natural and cultural resource stewardship and mitigation which have continued over the last 60 years. Returning the lands to the State and remediating any damages to the lands would be a huge step forward in gaining public trust.


It is important to note that currently the military uses approximately 18,060 acres for military training purposes on the three sites included in this EIS which includes the two previously mentioned, KTA



and Poamoho as well as Makua Military Reservation. Of this approximately 6,300 acres are those that are currently being leased from the State and would be returned in the No Action Alternative. That would leave 11,760 acres remaining for use for essential training. It is also important to note the thousands of acres of land currently held by the military does not include the many bases, housing areas and other pieces of land that the general public cannot access. Returning the 6,300 acres for which the leases are expiring will show a good faith effort by the military and the State to acknowledge the will of the people to have the lands returned as specified in the original lease and make a tremendous effort to build upon our collective efforts to work together for our future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my comments. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heidi Tsuneyoshi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Tsuneyoshi  
City Councilmember  
District II

## Honolulu City Councilmember, District 2

Aloha and good evening. ... I wanted to wait until everybody had a chance to speak for the first time, so thank you so much for the opportunity to share a few words. I will also be submitting written testimony, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who put this opportunity together, and most importantly, to thank everybody who has taken their time to present and offer their opinion, testimony, and very important comments on this very important issue.

Colonel Misigoy, I wanted to very directly speak to you this evening as an elected official representing the people that you have heard from this evening, that you do take into extreme consideration the fact that all that you've heard from this evening, all of them are opposed to the continuation of the lease, as you have an obligation to listen to the people and the decisions that we are making moving forward.

And I just wanted to highlight the fact again that every single one of the individuals who spoke this evening were in opposition, strong opposition at that.

My background is my mom's part Native Hawaiian, and my father came here with the Navy, so I within myself have the push and pull of the military and what has happened to our land.

And I ask that you consider one thing as you move forward -- and again, I'll put a lot of my comments into my written testimony -- but that you have an opportunity, a lifelong opportunity that will not only be for now, but for generations to come, to make this very important, pivotal decision to do what's right, not because you go through a process that people are unsure what's going to happen, but because you make the right decision and be the voice for what you've heard tonight, and that without any further comment and any further need for you to hear anymore, that you decide to return the lands back to the people, that you decide on your own to do what's right and to be the voice for the people, because you can be that pivotal point at this time.

I just want to finally close by saying from one of the veterans who is also kupuna, that it said -- he said you have seven years to clean up before the leases expire. And that really is what the people are calling for now. And you can do what's right and make a historic decision to return the lands, and you have opportunity to do that.

I've worked with you on many other things, and I see in your eyes, and I really appreciate you being here this whole time, that you understand the importance of this time.

So thank you again to everybody who has been on, that has shared from their heart about what is happening with this land.

I also grew up in Wahiawa. I just want to very briefly -- I know that two minutes are coming to an end -- just to say that let's also keep in mind that these acreage that is being asked to return is very minimal compared to the overall usage of the military in Hawai'i.

This doesn't include all the other lands that you currently have. It doesn't include the bases, the housing, east range in Wahiawa which was just talked about as well. So many, many thousands of additional acres.

So this would be a small way to say we understand and we're giving back and we're cleaning up and we're being partners, as we've always said we would and we should.

So thank you again to everybody who's been on tonight. I will be sending my full written comments, but thank you for everybody who's participated. Thank you, Group 70, for setting this up. Thank you, Trisha, for being here.

And, Colonel Misigoy, I hope that you really take this into consideration. Thank you. Mahalo and aloha.

## **Organizations**

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# Organizations

Aha Ula Puuhonua Kukaniloko.....	O-1	The Sierra Club of Hawai'i.....	O-195
Delphi LLC.....	O-2	Veterans For Peace,	
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# Aha Ula Puuhonua Kukaniloko

Department of Defense  
USAG-Hawaii

Kauikeaouli/Zachary Taylor Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, Navigation and Extradition  
1849-1850.

Return all protected property Pohakuloa, Hawaii Island, Makua Valley, Kahuku and Poamoho,  
Oahu Island to the Kingdom of Hawaii. Please affirm Protected Person status is safeguarded under  
International Law.

Thomas Joseph Lenchanko  
Aha Ula Puuhonua Kukaniloko

Protected Person, Kingdom of Hawaii, Hawaiian National and Private Citizen.

kahuakaiola ko laila waha olelo aha kukaniloko koa mana mea ola kanaka mauili hoalii iku pau

# Delphi LLC

Hello,

I'm the CEO of Delphi Cinema LLC, a media production company based out of Oahu. Among many corporate clients, we are also a media partner of Kallman Worldwide which facilitates international trade shows with groups such as the US Department of Defense, US Department of Commerce, US Department of State, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Energy, as well as groups such as Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, and Raytheon.

We believe the land at Makua, Kahuku, and Waihiwa leased for \$1 since 1964 is egregious for the amount of impact that has been had. We are entering a new era of definition in the function of the military. The archaic constructs of disregard for the desecration of the planet is one that is a threat to our national security. That coincides with how we work with the communities that we conduct our operations and trainings. The Hawaiian land needs to be protected and preserved with a tremendous focus on regeneration of the surrounding environment. As our reach now extends far past the earth atmosphere, we must look to ways in which we can create symbiosis with the communities that we occupy.

I think we can all agree that at bare minimum if the lease of this land is extended, it should be leased at full market rate. The money can be allocated to fund environmental initiatives, the education system, healthcare, and mental health resources for the homeless population across Oahu and the Hawaiian Islands.

There is a balance to be struck between the security of our nation through the training grounds of our armed forces, as well as the Hawaiian community that it works within.

Thank you for your time,

Phil Schlieder  
CEO & FOUNDER  
Delphi Cinema  
phil.schlieder@gmail.com  
808.451.8763



## Earthjustice on behalf of Malama Makua

Please find attached Mālama Mākua's scoping comments on the Army's proposal to secure long-term military use of State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation on O'ahu. See 86 Fed. Reg. 39,007 (July 23, 2021); 86 Fed. Reg. 43,230 (Aug. 6, 2021)

Please confirm receipt of these comments.

**From:** [David Henkin](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Scoping Comments - ATLR EIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:04:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [2021-8-31 MM ATLR Scoping Comments.pdf](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached Mālama Mākua's scoping comments on the Army's proposal to secure long-term military use of State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation on O'ahu. See 86 Fed. Reg. 39,007 (July 23, 2021); 86 Fed. Reg. 43,230 (Aug. 6, 2021)

Please confirm receipt of these comments.

Regards,

David Henkin  
Senior Attorney  
Earthjustice  
850 Richards St., Suite 400  
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August 31, 2021

*Via Electronic Mail*

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments  
usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil

Re: Scoping for Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i, 86 Fed. Reg. 39,007 (July 23, 2021), 86 Fed. Reg. 43,230 (Aug. 6, 2021)

To Whom It May Concern:

Earthjustice submits these comments on behalf of Mālama Mākua in response to the U.S. Army's request for public input on the proper scope of the environmental impact statement ("EIS") on the Army's proposal to secure long-term military use of State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area ("KTA"), Poamoho Training Area ("Poamoho"), and Makua Military Reservation ("MMR") on O'ahu, for which current leases expire on August 16, 2029. *See* 86 Fed. Reg. 39,007 (July 23, 2021); 86 Fed. Reg. 43,230 (Aug. 6, 2021). The Army is preparing this EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") to inform the Army's own decisions regarding whether to continue occupying and training on State-owned lands and also pursuant to the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act ("HEPA") to inform the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources' ("BLNR's") decisions regarding the public trust resources under its care. *See* Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice ("EISPN") (July 2021) at 1-9 to 1-10, available at [http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc\\_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf](http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf). Please note that, while Mālama Mākua's mission focuses on safeguarding the sacred lands at Mākua, Kahanahāiki and Ko'iahi that lie within MMR, these comments apply equally to the EIS's analysis of the Army's proposal to retain training lands at KTA and Poamoho.

As a threshold matter, we emphasize that Mālama Mākua considers continued military occupation and use of MMR, KTA and Poamoho for military training to be *hewa*, which should cease immediately. Accordingly, Mālama Mākua strongly supports the "no action" alternative, under which "the Army would not retain any of the State-owned land on KTA, Poamoho, or MMR after the current lease expiration." EISPN at 2-12.

While Mālama Mākua opposes any continued military occupation or use of MMR, KTA and Poamoho, it understands that the purpose of the EIS process "is to require disclosure of relevant

environmental considerations that were given a ‘hard look’ by the agency, and thereby to permit informed public comment on proposed action and any choices or alternatives that might be pursued with less environmental harm.” *Lands Council v. Powell*, 395 F.3d 1019, 1027 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2005); *see also* Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 343-1, 343-2. Mālama Mākua offers its comments to assist the Army and BLNR in complying with their duties under NEPA and HEPA.

### Impacts Associated with Illegal Overthrow of Hawai‘i

The EIS’s analysis of the impacts of any alternative that proposes continued military occupation of and training on State-owned lands at MMR, KTA or Poamoho must take into account the United States’ involvement in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, which Congress acknowledged in Public Law 103-150 (commonly known as the “Apology Resolution”) (attached). Among other things, the illegal overthrow resulted in the United States—and, subsequently, the State of Hawai‘i—taking title to crown, government and public lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i—including lands at MMR, KTA and Poamoho—“without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii or their sovereign government.” Pub. L. 103-150, 107 Stat. 1510, 1512 (Nov. 23, 1993). Continued military occupation, degradation and desecration of Kingdom lands, including the “State-owned” lands at MMR, KTA and Poamoho that are the subject of the EIS, inflict severe cultural and psychological harm on the Native Hawaiian people, who were unlawfully dispossessed of those lands.

### Analysis of the “No Action” Alternative Must Consider the Substantial Benefits of Terminating Military Occupation and Use of State-Owned Lands.

In analyzing the “no action” alternative, the Army must consider the substantial benefits that would come from freeing the State-owned lands at MMR, KTA and Poamoho—and the public-trust resources found there—from continued military occupation and from putting an end to further training-related degradation, contamination, and destruction.

The mere fact that the Army holds leases for these lands has largely put them off-limits to beneficial use by the public for generations. The Army severely limits access for cultural, subsistence and recreational purposes and often suddenly (and unilaterally) shuts down public access altogether. *See, e.g.*, EISPN at 2-1 to 2-2 (only portions of KTA and Poamoho open for recreation or hunting and such access is permitted only “on weekends and holiday” or seasonally); Complaint, *Mālama Mākua v. Carter*, Civ. No. 16-00597 (D. Haw. Nov. 7, 2016) (attached) (notwithstanding court-ordered settlement, Army unilaterally shut down cultural access at MMR). Allowing the leases to expire without renewal would reopen these lands to Hawai‘i’s people, conferring substantial benefits from increased public access for cultural, subsistence and recreational purposes and allowing these lands to return to culturally appropriate uses.

The decades of military occupation of and training on these lands have exacted their toll, with documented destruction of imperiled species, extensive erosion and sedimentation, noise blanketing surrounding areas, and contamination with unexploded ordnance (“UXO”) confirmed at MMR and likely at KTA. *See* EISPN at 3-5. Ending the leases would confer substantial benefits by preventing further degradation and harm. It would also trigger the Army’s obligation to “remove weapons and shells used in connection with its training activities.” 1964 MMR Lease (attached) ¶ 26; 1964 KTA Lease (attached) ¶ 29; 1964 Poamoho Lease (attached) ¶ 29. Removing UXO would reduce threats to the public outside the gates of the Army’s training installations (*e.g.*, potential for accidental detonations, with the blast radius extending into public areas; offsite migration of contaminants) and would increase opportunities for cultural, subsistence and recreational activities conducted on lands currently leased to the Army.

Analysis of Alternatives Must Consider Measures to Minimize Impacts of Continued Military Occupation and Use of State-Owned Lands

The Army claims in its EISPN that it is only “following acceptance of the EIS” that BLNR may need to consider “[w]hat methods would be used to allow Army retention of the State-owned lands, and what terms would be associated with the selected methods.” EISPN at 1-10. The Army misstates the legally mandated procedures. Under Hawai’i law, the EIS must evaluate “reasonable alternatives that could attain the objectives of the action,” with “particular attention ... given to alternatives that might enhance environmental quality or avoid, reduce, or minimize some or all of the adverse environmental effects, costs, and risks of the action.” Haw. Admin. R. § 11-200.1-24(h). Alternatives should examine “different designs or details of the proposed action that would present different environmental impacts.” *Id.* § 11-200.1-24(h)(1). Federal law similarly requires the alternatives analysis in an EIS to “[i]nclude appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(e). Accordingly, under both state and federal law, the EIS itself, not some analysis performed following completion of the NEPA/HEPA process, must evaluate alternatives that incorporate measures to minimize the impacts of continued military occupation and use of any portion of MMR, KTA or Poamoho (*e.g.*, lease conditions) that the Army proposes to retain.

Reasonable conditions for any continued military occupation/use of State-owned lands that the EIS must evaluate include, but are not limited to: (1) a prohibition on any live-fire training; (2) provision for community observers to monitor military activities; (3) an ongoing obligation to clear all UXO; and (4) guarantees of adequate opportunities for cultural, subsistence and recreational access. These are discussed in greater detail below.

*Prohibition on Live-Fire Training*

As the Army notes in its EISPN, “[n]one of the State-owned land at any of the three training areas is currently used for live-fire training or storage of live munitions.” EISPN at 3-13. The Army has not fired a single shot at MMR since June 2004, more than 17 years ago, and it has never conducted live-fire training at Poamoho. *See id.* Even though the military has long been able to carry out its national security mission without live-fire training at MMR, KTA or Poamoho, the Army nonetheless wants to reserve the option to “propose the resumption of live-fire training in some form in the future on State-owned lands.” *Id.* at 2-2. The EIS should evaluate alternatives that take that option off the table.

Specifically, the EIS should evaluate alternatives that prohibit live-fire training on any State lands that the military retains after August 16, 2029. Such alternatives would ensure against the significant harm to public trust resources associated with any future resumption of live-fire training. Harms that such alternatives would avoid or minimize include, but are not limited to, training-related fires that destroy native habitat, kill imperiled species, pollute the air, and result in contaminated runoff from burned lands; destruction of cultural resources; restrictions on cultural, subsistence, and recreational access by the public to training lands; hazards related to unexploded ordnance; noise impacts to surrounding communities and to areas used for recreation and/or subsistence hunting and fishing; and rendering the land unfit for future, beneficial, civilian use. *See, e.g.,* Final EIS for Military Training Activities at MMR (June 2009).

The 1964 leases that are currently in effect for MMR, KTA and Poamoho confirm that alternatives that prohibit live-fire training activities on state lands are both reasonable and feasible. All three leases contain conditions that prohibit the military from using “any portion of [leased state lands] as an impact area for explosive or incendiary munitions of any type.” 1964 MMR Lease ¶ 8; 1964 KTA Lease ¶ 15; 1964 Poamoho Lease ¶ 15. The leases for KTA and Poamoho further “limit firing on the premises to weapons not larger than .50 caliber.” 1964 KTA Lease ¶ 15; 1964 Poamoho Lease ¶ 15. Going forward, the prohibition on live-fire training on State-owned lands should be extended to prohibit the firing of *any* weapons either *on* leased State lands or *from* leased State lands *into* federally held training areas, which would confer protection (and, thus, significant benefit) to public trust resources on land that is currently under federal ownership. Notably, the Army’s stated need for continued military use of State-owned land at MMR, KTA and Poamoho “is to allow the military to **sustain current training and combat readiness requirements** on Army-managed lands in Hawai’i.” EISPN at 1-8 (emphasis added). As discussed, current training does not include any live-fire training at any of these facilities.

### *Community Observers to Monitor Military Activities*

To minimize the impacts associated with military use of State-owned land, adequate monitoring of the Army's compliance with lease terms is vital. In *Ching v. Case*, 145 Hawai'i 148, 449 P.3d 1146 (2019), the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that the BLNR had breached its trust duties to monitor the Army's compliance with the terms of its lease for State-owned land located within Pōhakuloa Training Area on Hawai'i Island. To help ensure adequate monitoring of the Army's compliance with the conditions and limitations included in any new lease or other agreement for continued military occupation and use of State-owned lands at MMR, KTA or Poamoho, the EIS should examine alternatives that provide for community observers to monitor all military activities that take place on, or otherwise affect, leased lands.

The court-ordered settlement currently in effect for MMR confirms the reasonableness, feasibility and importance of imposing a community observer requirement. That agreement provides that "[a]t least one member of Mālama Mākua will be allowed access as an observer to each live-fire training exercise at MMR, post-training UXO cleanup, and post-training evaluation of damage to cultural sites." Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order, *Mālama Mākua v. Rumsfeld*, Civ. No. 00-00813 SOM LEK, at ¶ 12 (D. Haw. Oct. 4, 2001) ("2001 Settlement") (attached). The settlement further provides for "[o]ther members of the Wai'anae Coast community" to serve as observers. *Id.* In consultation with Mālama Mākua, the Army established detailed protocols for monitoring by community observers. See Access by Members of Mālama Mākua and/or Members of the Wai'anae Coast to Observe Training at Mākua Military Reservation (Nov. 2, 2001) (attached).

During the limited period (from October 2001 to June 2004) when live-fire training occurred at MMR, Mālama Mākua and Wai'anae Coast community observers witnessed, flagged and prevented numerous violations by the Army of limitations on live-fire training imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (*e.g.*, unit commanders attempting to continue training exercises when the burn index was too high and mortar rounds fired outside the firebreak roads). Conditioning any lease renewal on the Army allowing community observers would likewise help ensure compliance with lease terms that seek to prevent harm to the human environment.

### *Comprehensive Removal of Unexploded Ordnance*

As noted above, the current leases for MMR, KTA and Poamoho oblige the Army, upon expiration or other termination of the leases, to "remove weapons and shells used in connection with its training activities." 1964 MMR Lease ¶ 26; 1964 KTA Lease ¶ 29; 1964 Poamoho Lease ¶ 29. All three leases, however, limit the Army's obligation to clean up UXO to only "expenditures for removal of shells [that] will not exceed the fair market value of the land." 1964 MMR Lease ¶ 26; 1964 KTA Lease ¶ 29; 1964 Poamoho Lease ¶ 29. Moreover, while the

Army is obliged to “make every reasonable effort ... to remove or deactivate all live or blank ammunition upon completion of a training exercise,” the current leases impose no clear duty on the Army, prior to the leases’ termination, to remove any UXO that its “reasonable” efforts may have missed. 1964 KTA Lease ¶ 9; 1964 Poamoho Lease ¶ 9; *see also* 1964 MMR Lease ¶ 8 (same).

UXO on Army training lands poses grave threats to the public now, not just when leases end. That threat extends to members of the public outside of Army training facilities because shrapnel from UXO that accidentally detonates does not magically stop at the military training area’s fence line. To minimize threats to the public, the EIS should examine alternatives that mandate the Army to conduct ongoing, comprehensive clearance of UXO from all leased State-owned lands, as well as from any “ceded” lands claimed by the federal government where UXO might threaten the public when conducting activities on leased lands or on lands outside of military training areas. The Army should be obliged to continue UXO clearance until all UXO is removed, with no funding limitation.

The Army has also used the presence of UXO on military training lands as a justification for restricting public access to those lands to conduct cultural, subsistence and recreational activities, inflicting significant harm on neighboring communities and cultural practitioners. To minimize such harms in the future (and to mitigate the harm that military occupation and use of these lands has inflicted in the past), the EIS should examine alternatives that condition any lease renewal on the Army’s commitment to clear UXO from *all lands* at MMR, KTA and Poamoho (whether leased from the State or claimed as “ceded” by the federal government), which would remove obstacles to cultural, subsistence and recreational access.

The court-ordered settlement for MMR confirms the reasonableness and feasibility of such lease conditions. To reduce the risk to members of the public using Mākua Beach and Farrington Highway (*i.e.*, conducting activities outside MMR), the settlement requires the Army to clear UXO from “the area within MMR extending 1,000 meters mauka (towards the mountains) from Farrington Highway.” 2001 Settlement ¶ 8(a). The settlement also requires the Army to clear UXO from “additional, high priority areas at MMR” in order to “increas[e] access to cultural sites.” *Id.* ¶ 8(b); *see also* High Priority Site List for UXO Clearance (June 12, 2009) (attached).<sup>1</sup> The settlement obliged the Army to “make good faith efforts to secure the necessary funding” for this UXO clearance, without placing any cap on the required expenditures. 2001 Settlement ¶ 8(a); *see also id.* ¶ 8(b).

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<sup>1</sup> While the 2001 Settlement obliges the Army to clear UXO from twenty-two sites to allow for cultural access, scores of other cultural sites at MMR remain off-limits to cultural access due to the presence of UXO. *See* Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification of Public Access Priorities, Makua Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii (Feb. 2009) (attached).



### *Cultural, Subsistence and Recreational Access*

For many decades, military occupation of and training on lands at MMR, KTA and Poamoho have inflicted significant harm on the community by severely limiting—and often completely prohibiting—public access for cultural, subsistence and recreational purposes. The EIS should evaluate alternatives that would minimize these harms by ensuring that, should the Army be permitted to continue its occupation and use of any State-owned lands, the public will have adequate opportunities for access on both State-owned lands and “ceded” lands claimed by the federal government. The prohibition on live-fire training and mandate to conduct comprehensive UXO removal (discussed above) will create better conditions for such access to occur.

The court-ordered settlement for MMR confirms the reasonableness and feasibility of such lease conditions. The settlement requires the Army to give members of the Wai‘anae Coast community “daytime access (sunrise to sunset) to MMR to conduct cultural activities at least twice a month” and to allow “overnight access (from two hours before sunset on the first day until two hours after sunset on the second day) to MMR to conduct cultural activities on at least two additional occasions per year.” 2001 Settlement ¶ 13. The Army agreed to provide this cultural access at a time that it contemplated conducting live-fire training exercises at MMR. *See id.* ¶¶ 2-3. Given that no live-fire training currently occurs at MMR, KTA or Poamoho, it is both reasonable and feasible for the Army to provide more frequent public access to these training areas for cultural—as well as subsistence and recreational—purposes.

### Funding for Community Peer-Review of Army Studies

“NEPA’s public comment procedures are at the heart of the NEPA review process.” *California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753, 770 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). To effectuate “the paramount Congressional desire ... to ensure that an agency is cognizant of all the environmental trade-offs that are implicit in a decision[,] ... NEPA requires not merely public notice, but public participation in the evaluation of the environmental consequences of a major federal action.” *Id.* at 771.

The communities that are most directly affected by the Army’s proposal to retain State-owned lands for military training are struggling economically. According to the most recent census data, nearly one-quarter of the residents in Wai‘anae, where MMR is located, live in poverty. *See* <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/waianaecdphawaii/LND110210>. These data predate the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit the Wai‘anae Coast community particularly hard. To enable struggling communities to participate actively and effectively in the NEPA process, the Army should provide technical assistance funds that the community can use to hire experts to peer review and supplement the studies the Army prepares as part of its draft EIS. Access to technical assistance will help communities provide informed comments regarding

August 31, 2021

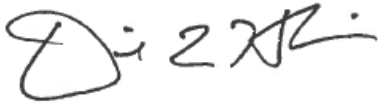
Page 8

their concerns and will also increase public understanding of the information generated during the NEPA process.

Twenty years ago, the Army agreed to provide members of the Waiʻanae Coast community with \$50,000 of technical assistance to “help them better understand the technical issues and study protocols to be used during the NEPA process at MMR.” 2001 Settlement ¶ 9(a). The Army should provide similar funds again. Given that costs have gone up in the intervening decades and that the Army’s current proposal directly affects three separate communities, we urge the Army to contribute at least \$250,000 for technical assistance in reviewing and commenting on the draft EIS.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions or would otherwise like to discuss these comments, please feel free to contact me via email ([dhenkin@earthjustice.org](mailto:dhenkin@earthjustice.org)) or telephone (808-599-2436).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Henkin".

David L. Henkin  
Senior Attorney

DLH/tt  
Attachments

Public Law 103-150  
103d Congress

## Joint Resolution

Nov. 23, 1993  
[S.J. Res. 19]

To acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, and to offer an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Whereas, prior to the arrival of the first Europeans in 1778, the Native Hawaiian people lived in a highly organized, self-sufficient, subsistent social system based on communal land tenure with a sophisticated language, culture, and religion;

Whereas a unified monarchical government of the Hawaiian Islands was established in 1810 under Kamehameha I, the first King of Hawaii;

Whereas, from 1826 until 1893, the United States recognized the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii, extended full and complete diplomatic recognition to the Hawaiian Government, and entered into treaties and conventions with the Hawaiian monarchs to govern commerce and navigation in 1826, 1842, 1849, 1875, and 1887;

Whereas the Congregational Church (now known as the United Church of Christ), through its American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, sponsored and sent more than 100 missionaries to the Kingdom of Hawaii between 1820 and 1850;

Whereas, on January 14, 1893, John L. Stevens (hereafter referred to in this Resolution as the "United States Minister"), the United States Minister assigned to the sovereign and independent Kingdom of Hawaii conspired with a small group of non-Hawaiian residents of the Kingdom of Hawaii, including citizens of the United States, to overthrow the indigenous and lawful Government of Hawaii;

Whereas, in pursuance of the conspiracy to overthrow the Government of Hawaii, the United States Minister and the naval representatives of the United States caused armed naval forces of the United States to invade the sovereign Hawaiian nation on January 16, 1893, and to position themselves near the Hawaiian Government buildings and the Iolani Palace to intimidate Queen Liliuokalani and her Government;

Whereas, on the afternoon of January 17, 1893, a Committee of Safety that represented the American and European sugar planters, descendants of missionaries, and financiers deposed the Hawaiian monarchy and proclaimed the establishment of a Provisional Government;

Whereas the United States Minister thereupon extended diplomatic recognition to the Provisional Government that was formed by the conspirators without the consent of the Native Hawaiian



people or the lawful Government of Hawaii and in violation of treaties between the two nations and of international law; Whereas, soon thereafter, when informed of the risk of bloodshed with resistance, Queen Liliuokalani issued the following statement yielding her authority to the United States Government rather than to the Provisional Government:

"I Liliuokalani, by the Grace of God and under the Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the Constitutional Government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a Provisional Government of and for this Kingdom.

"That I yield to the superior force of the United States of America whose Minister Plenipotentiary, His Excellency John L. Stevens, has caused United States troops to be landed at Honolulu and declared that he would support the Provisional Government.

"Now to avoid any collision of armed forces, and perhaps the loss of life, I do this under protest and impelled by said force yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representatives and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the Constitutional Sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands."

Done at Honolulu this 17th day of January, A.D. 1893;

Whereas, without the active support and intervention by the United States diplomatic and military representatives, the insurrection against the Government of Queen Liliuokalani would have failed for lack of popular support and insufficient arms;

Whereas, on February 1, 1893, the United States Minister raised the American flag and proclaimed Hawaii to be a protectorate of the United States;

Whereas the report of a Presidentially established investigation conducted by former Congressman James Blount into the events surrounding the insurrection and overthrow of January 17, 1893, concluded that the United States diplomatic and military representatives had abused their authority and were responsible for the change in government;

Whereas, as a result of this investigation, the United States Minister to Hawaii was recalled from his diplomatic post and the military commander of the United States armed forces stationed in Hawaii was disciplined and forced to resign his commission;

Whereas, in a message to Congress on December 18, 1893, President Grover Cleveland reported fully and accurately on the illegal acts of the conspirators, described such acts as an "act of war, committed with the participation of a diplomatic representative of the United States and without authority of Congress", and acknowledged that by such acts the government of a peaceful and friendly people was overthrown;

Whereas President Cleveland further concluded that a "substantial wrong has thus been done which a due regard for our national character as well as the rights of the injured people requires we should endeavor to repair" and called for the restoration of the Hawaiian monarchy;

Whereas the Provisional Government protested President Cleveland's call for the restoration of the monarchy and continued to hold state power and pursue annexation to the United States; Whereas the Provisional Government successfully lobbied the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate (hereafter referred



to in this Resolution as the "Committee") to conduct a new investigation into the events surrounding the overthrow of the monarchy;

Whereas the Committee and its chairman, Senator John Morgan, conducted hearings in Washington, D.C., from December 27, 1893, through February 26, 1894, in which members of the Provisional Government justified and condoned the actions of the United States Minister and recommended annexation of Hawaii;

Whereas, although the Provisional Government was able to obscure the role of the United States in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, it was unable to rally the support from two-thirds of the Senate needed to ratify a treaty of annexation;

Whereas, on July 4, 1894, the Provisional Government declared itself to be the Republic of Hawaii;

Whereas, on January 24, 1895, while imprisoned in Iolani Palace, Queen Liliuokalani was forced by representatives of the Republic of Hawaii to officially abdicate her throne;

Whereas, in the 1896 United States Presidential election, William McKinley replaced Grover Cleveland;

Whereas, on July 7, 1898, as a consequence of the Spanish-American War, President McKinley signed the Newlands Joint Resolution that provided for the annexation of Hawaii;

Whereas, through the Newlands Resolution, the self-declared Republic of Hawaii ceded sovereignty over the Hawaiian Islands to the United States;

Whereas the Republic of Hawaii also ceded 1,800,000 acres of crown, government and public lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii, without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii or their sovereign government;

Whereas the Congress, through the Newlands Resolution, ratified the cession, annexed Hawaii as part of the United States, and vested title to the lands in Hawaii in the United States;

Whereas the Newlands Resolution also specified that treaties existing between Hawaii and foreign nations were to immediately cease and be replaced by United States treaties with such nations;

Whereas the Newlands Resolution effected the transaction between the Republic of Hawaii and the United States Government;

Whereas the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum;

Whereas, on April 30, 1900, President McKinley signed the Organic Act that provided a government for the territory of Hawaii and defined the political structure and powers of the newly established Territorial Government and its relationship to the United States;

Whereas, on August 21, 1959, Hawaii became the 50th State of the United States;

Whereas the health and well-being of the Native Hawaiian people is intrinsically tied to their deep feelings and attachment to the land;

Whereas the long-range economic and social changes in Hawaii over the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have been devastating to the population and to the health and well-being of the Hawaiian people;

Whereas the Native Hawaiian people are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territory, and their cultural identity in accordance with their own



spiritual and traditional beliefs, customs, practices, language, and social institutions;

Whereas, in order to promote racial harmony and cultural understanding, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii has determined that the year 1993 should serve Hawaii as a year of special reflection on the rights and dignities of the Native Hawaiians in the Hawaiian and the American societies;

Whereas the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in recognition of the denomination's historical complicity in the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893 directed the Office of the President of the United Church of Christ to offer a public apology to the Native Hawaiian people and to initiate the process of reconciliation between the United Church of Christ and the Native Hawaiians; and

Whereas it is proper and timely for the Congress on the occasion of the impending one hundredth anniversary of the event, to acknowledge the historic significance of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, to express its deep regret to the Native Hawaiian people, and to support the reconciliation efforts of the State of Hawaii and the United Church of Christ with Native Hawaiians: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APOLOGY.

The Congress—

(1) on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893, acknowledges the historical significance of this event which resulted in the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people;

(2) recognizes and commends efforts of reconciliation initiated by the State of Hawaii and the United Church of Christ with Native Hawaiians;

(3) apologizes to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the people of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893 with the participation of agents and citizens of the United States, and the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to self-determination;

(4) expresses its commitment to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, in order to provide a proper foundation for reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people; and

(5) urges the President of the United States to also acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Joint Resolution, the term "Native Hawaiian" means any individual who is a descendent of the aboriginal people who, prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.

**SEC. 3. DISCLAIMER.**

Nothing in this Joint Resolution is intended to serve as a settlement of any claims against the United States.

Approved November 23, 1993.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 19:**

SENATE REPORTS: No. 103-126 (Comm. on Indian Affairs).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):

Oct. 27, considered and passed Senate.  
Nov. 15, considered and passed House.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Mālama Mākua

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF HAWAI‘I

MĀLAMA MĀKUA, a Hawai‘i non-	)	Civil No. 16-597
profit,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT FOR
Plaintiff,	)	DECLARATORY JUDGMENT
	)	AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF RE:
v.	)	DEFENDANTS’ DENIAL OF
	)	ACCESS TO CULTURAL SITES
ASHTON CARTER, Secretary	)	AND OTHER AREAS AT MĀKUA
of Defense; and ERIC FANNING,	)	MILITARY RESERVATION
Secretary of the United States Army,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

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COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF RE: DEFENDANTS’ DENIAL OF ACCESS TO CULTURAL  
SITES AND OTHER AREAS AT MĀKUA MILITARY RESERVATION



Plaintiff Mālama Mākua complains of Defendants as follows:

### INTRODUCTION

1. Beginning in June of 2014, the United States Army began to prevent Plaintiff Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai‘anae Coast community from accessing cultural sites at Mākua Military Reservation (“MMR”). By July 2014, the Army had prohibited access to all cultural sites at MMR, a blanket ban that remains in place to this day. Beginning in April of 2015, the Army extended the ban to other areas at MMR where Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai‘anae Coast community previously had routinely conducted cultural activities, including, but not limited to, most of MMR’s firebreak road network and the Mākua ahu, which the community constructed in 2001 for the annual celebration of the Makahiki at MMR.

2. This action seeks an order compelling compliance by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the United States Department of the Army (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Defendants”) with obligations they voluntarily assumed when they entered into the Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order in Mālama Mākua v. Rumsfeld, Civ. No. 00-00813 SOM LEK (D. Haw. Oct. 4, 2001) (“2001 Settlement”). Specifically, Plaintiff Mālama Mākua seeks compliance with Defendants’ duty to allow members of the Wai‘anae Coast community, including Mālama Mākua, to access cultural sites and other areas at

MMR to conduct cultural activities. See 2001 Settlement ¶¶ 8(b), 13. Moreover, to the extent Defendants claim that the presence of unexploded ordnance (“UXO”) renders cultural access to any area at MMR unsafe, Mālama Mākua further seeks compliance with Defendants’ duty to clear UXO to permit cultural access. See id. ¶ 8(a), (b).

3. Mālama Mākua seeks a declaratory judgment that Defendants have violated and are violating the aforementioned obligations by (1) prohibiting members of the Wai‘anae Coast community, including Mālama Mākua, from accessing any of Mākua’s cultural sites, as well as other areas at MMR, to conduct cultural activities and (2) failing to make good faith efforts promptly to clear any UXO that Defendants contend precludes safe cultural access. Mālama Mākua respectfully asks the Court to issue an order compelling Defendants to remedy these violations by (1) promptly reopening access to Mākua’s cultural sites and other areas and (2), if Defendants contend that the presence of UXO renders access to any area at MMR unsafe, promptly to develop a plan and secure funding for clearance of such UXO.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims for relief in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1346 (United States as defendant); 28 U.S.C. § 1361 (actions to compel an officer of the United States to perform his duty); and 28

U.S.C. §§ 2201-02 (power to issue declaratory judgments in cases of actual controversy). See Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co., 511 U.S. 375 (1994); Mālama Mākua v. Gates, Civ. No. 00-00813 SOM LEK, 2008 WL 976919, at \*7 (D. Haw. Apr. 9, 2008).

5. Venue lies properly in this judicial district by virtue of 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because this is a civil action in which officers or employees of the United States or an agency thereof are acting in their official capacity or under color of legal authority, a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this judicial district, and Plaintiff Mālama Mākua resides here.

### PARTIES

#### A. Plaintiff

6. Plaintiff Mālama Mākua is a Hawai‘i nonprofit corporation, whose members consist primarily of residents of the Wai‘anae District of O‘ahu. The organization’s goals include restoration of the land at MMR, return of the land to appropriate traditional and cultural uses, and protection of the public from adverse impacts associated with military training-related activities at MMR. Members of Mālama Mākua include native Hawaiian practitioners, community leaders, and educators who are actively involved in the land-use issues associated with MMR.

7. Mālama Mākua and its members are committed to the preservation and perpetuation of native Hawaiian culture, traditional and customary Hawaiian practices, cultural sites and resources in the Mākua region, including at MMR.

8. Mālama Mākua and its members work to protect and restore Hawaiian cultural sites at MMR, as well as to increase opportunities for cultural access to those sites. For example, in negotiating the 2001 Settlement, Mālama Mākua secured Defendants' commitments to permit regular cultural access to MMR and to clear UXO to increase opportunities for cultural access. Mālama Mākua returned to court in 2008 and 2009 to enforce the Army's obligations with respect to cultural access.

9. Following the entry of the 2001 Settlement as a court order, Mālama Mākua and its members regularly accessed cultural sites and other areas at MMR to conduct cultural activities, until Defendants began imposing the restrictions on access complained of herein.

10. Mālama Mākua has attempted to work cooperatively with the Army to secure the reopening of cultural sites and other locations at MMR, so that cultural practices may resume. Despite Mālama Mākua's best efforts, Defendants have refused to reopen access to any of MMR's cultural sites or to other areas where Mālama Mākua and others previously conducted cultural activities.

11. Mālama Mākua and its members intend to continue their efforts to protect and restore Mākua and, whenever possible, to increase and expand their use of MMR. The above-described religious, spiritual, cultural, aesthetic and educational interests of Mālama Mākua and its members, have been, are being, and, unless the relief prayed herein is granted, will continue to be adversely affected and irreparably injured by Defendants' continued refusal to permit cultural access to cultural sites and other locations at MMR, as is more fully set forth below. The individual interests of Plaintiff's members as well as its organizational interests are thus directly and adversely affected by Defendants' unlawful actions.

B. Defendants.

12. Defendant Ashton Carter is the Secretary of Defense, and is sued herein in his official capacity. He has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the Army's actions conform to the requirements of the 2001 Settlement. If ordered by the Court, Secretary Carter has the authority and ability to remedy the harm inflicted by Defendants' noncompliance with the duties they voluntarily assumed when they entered into the 2001 Settlement.

13. Defendant Eric Fanning is the Secretary of the United States Department of the Army, and is sued herein in his official capacity. He has the responsibility to ensure that the Army's actions conform to the requirements of the 2001 Settlement. If ordered by the Court, Secretary Fanning has the authority and

ability to remedy the harm inflicted by the Army's noncompliance with the duties it voluntarily assumed when it entered into the 2001 Settlement.

### BACKGROUND FACTS

A. The 2001 Settlement Guarantees Cultural Access To MMR And Requires Defendants To Clear UXO To Permit Access To Cultural Sites.

14. On December 20, 2000, Mālama Mākua filed a lawsuit in this Court, entitled Mālama Mākua v. Rumsfeld, Civ. No. 00-00813 SOM LEK, alleging that Defendants' failure to prepare an environmental impact statement for military training activities proposed for MMR violated the National Environmental Policy Act.

15. On October 4, 2001, the parties signed and this Court approved a settlement resolving Mālama Mākua's claims.

16. Paragraph 13 of the 2001 Settlement Agreement guarantees that "[m]embers of the Wai'anae Coast community, including Mālama Mākua, will be allowed daytime access (sunrise to sunset) to MMR to conduct cultural activities at least twice a month." It further provides that, "[a]dditionally, members of the Wai'anae Coast community, including Mālama Mākua, will be allowed overnight access (from two hours before sunset on the first day until two hours after sunset on the second day) to MMR to conduct cultural activities on at least two additional occasions per year."

17. The 2001 Settlement allows Defendants to impose limitations on cultural access, but only if limitations are “based on requirements for training, safety, national security, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.” 2001 Settlement ¶ 13. Moreover, before imposing any limitation on access, Defendants must consult native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, including those from Mālama Mākua.

18. Paragraph 13 of the 2001 Settlement further provides that Mālama Mākua and Defendants “will establish protocols for [cultural access] promptly.” Id. The parties did so, lodging their Cultural Access Agreement with this Court on July 18, 2002.

19. The Cultural Access Agreement reiterates the 2001 Settlement’s provision that Defendants may limit cultural access only “based on requirements for training, safety, national security or compliance with applicable laws and regulations.” Cultural Access Agreement ¶ 5(G). It also requires Defendants, if they have concerns regarding a request for access, promptly to “confer with the [cultural access] applicant’s point of contact in a good faith attempt to resolve any concerns or logistical issues that [Defendants] may have and to find a suitable and mutually acceptable solution to those concerns (e.g., find an alternate date for the access, reach agreement on modifications to the proposed access, etc.).” Id.

20. At the time the parties entered into the 2001 Settlement, they were aware that UXO at MMR poses a potential safety risk to cultural access participants. To reduce that risk, Paragraph 8(a) of the 2001 Settlement obliges Defendants to develop “a plan for UXO clearance for the area within MMR extending 1,000 meters mauka (towards the mountains) from Farrington Highway” and to complete “clearance activities in this area ... as soon as practicable.”

21. Paragraph 8(b) of the 2001 Settlement Agreement further requires Defendants to “identify additional, high priority areas at MMR for UXO clearance, with the focus on increasing access to cultural sites.” After Defendants identify these “additional, high priority sites,” they must “make good faith efforts promptly to develop a plan and secure specific funding for the clearance of UXO from these areas to provide safe, controlled access to identified cultural sites.” 2001 Settlement ¶ 8(b).

22. Soon after the entry of the 2001 Settlement, Mālama Mākua began exercising its cultural access rights, with Mālama Mākua’s first access taking place in November 2001. From then until the middle of 2014, Mālama Mākua routinely accessed cultural sites at MMR during the bimonthly daytime accesses guaranteed under Paragraph 13 of the 2001 Settlement. Defendants also routinely allowed Mālama Mākua to access other locations at MMR for cultural purposes, including MMR’s firebreak road network (with the exception of the area identified as



containing improved conventional munitions) and the Mākua ahu, which the community constructed in 2001 for the annual celebration of the Makahiki at MMR.

23. Pursuant to Paragraph 8(b) of the 2001 Settlement, Defendants cleared UXO from, and routinely allowed Mālama Mākua access to, ten high priority cultural sites located mauka of 1,000 meters from Farrington Highway: Sites 4536, 4542, 6505, 6506, 6508, 6596, 6597, 6603, 6613 and 6621. Pursuant to Paragraph 8(a) of the 2001 Settlement, Defendants also periodically cleared UXO to allow Mālama Mākua to access sites located within 1,000 meters of Farrington Highway, including, but not limited to, Sites 4537, 4542, 4546, 5456 and 5926.

B. In Mid-2014, Defendants Impose A Blanket Ban On Access To MMR's Cultural Sites.

24. On or about May 24, 2014, the Programmatic Agreement Among The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, The Hawaii State Historic Preservation Officer, And The Advisory Council On Historical Preservation For Section 106 Responsibilities For Routine Military Training At Makua Military Reservation, Oahu Island, Hawaii ("Programmatic Agreement") expired. Among other things, the Programmatic Agreement – which had been adopted pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA") – governed the maintenance of vegetation on trails leading to and within cultural sites at MMR.

25. During the twelve and one-half years prior to May 24, 2014 that cultural access at MMR pursuant to the 2001 Settlement had taken place, there were no documented instances of damage to any cultural site from vegetation management. Despite that fact, following the expiration of the Programmatic Agreement, Defendants decided that no vegetation management for cultural access could take place until a new memorandum of agreement (“MOA”) pursuant to the NHPA was finalized.

26. On June 7, 2014, members of Mālama Mākua arrived at MMR for a regularly scheduled daytime access. In compliance with the Cultural Access Agreement, Mālama Mākua had provided Defendants with its access request on May 23, 2014, more than the required seven (7) working days’ advance notice. Mālama Mākua’s advance notice requested access to, inter alia, Site 4546 to permit participants to visit and to offer ho‘okupu (ceremonial gifts) at the site’s heiau (temple).

27. With no prior consultation, on the very day of the June 7, 2014 access, Defendants denied Mālama Mākua access to Site 4546 on the grounds that, due to the lack of vegetation management, the height of the grass at the site, as well as a portion of the trail leading up to the site, was too long to allow safe access.

28. By July 2014, Defendants had imposed a ban on access to all of MMR's cultural sites (including the trails leading to those sites), claiming that, due to the lack of vegetation management, the grass was too high for safe access.

29. Mālama Mākua is informed and believes, and on the basis of that information and belief alleges, that, following the Programmatic Agreement's expiration, the Army expedited its NHPA compliance to allow vegetation management related to military training to resume. In contrast, Defendants dragged their feet in complying with the NHPA with respect to vegetation management related to cultural access. The MOA for vegetation management for cultural access was not finalized until September 11, 2015, more than a year after Defendants cut off all access to MMR's cultural sites.

C. Defendants Extend The Ban On Cultural Access.

30. Completion of the vegetation management MOA in September 2015 did not end Defendants' ban on access to MMR's cultural sites. On or about April 6, 2015, two Army-contracted grass cutters (who were maintaining vegetation for training, not cultural access) were injured by UXO. Defendants promptly banned all cultural access at MMR, prohibiting Mālama Mākua and other access participants from even entering MMR's gates, while Defendants conducted an investigation of the accident.

31. The complete ban on cultural access continued until November 2015. At that time, Defendants partially lifted the ban, strictly limiting access to only a few locations, none of which is a cultural site: the paved parking area at the entrance to MMR, a pavilion located near the parking area and the area immediately adjacent to it, the ahu at Kahanahāiki and Ko‘iahi the community uses for the annual celebration of the Makahiki at MMR, and the portion of the firebreak road network between the pavilion and the Kahanahāiki and Ko‘iahi ahu.

32. Defendants did not allow access to the Mākua ahu to resume, due to the discovery of nearby “anomalies” that might indicate the presence of UXO.

33. Defendants continued the ban on access to all cultural sites at MMR, claiming that it needed to await the completion of a report from the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (“USATCES”) making recommendations for cultural access at MMR. Defendants took this position despite the facts that: (1) USATCES already prepared a report with such recommendations in 2005; (2) no live-fire training has taken place at MMR since June 2004, and, consequently, no UXO has been introduced to MMR since USATCES prepared its 2005 report and recommendations; (3) until mid-2014, Defendants had been implementing the 2005 USATCES recommendations to allow cultural access for nearly a decade; and (4), during the nearly decade and a half of cultural access at MMR, no cultural

access participant at MMR has ever been hurt, either prior to or after implementation of the 2005 USATCES recommendations.

D. Defendants Refuse To Lift The Ban On Cultural Access.

34. On or about April 8, 2016, USATCES finalized its second report with recommendations for cultural access at MMR. These latest recommendations are virtually identical to the recommendations USATCES made in its 2005 report.

35. Mālama Mākua is informed and believes, and on the basis of that information and belief alleges, that Defendants have been implementing the September 2015 MOA for vegetation management for cultural access, cutting grass on the trails leading to cultural sites and within the sites.

36. Mālama Mākua is informed and believes, and on the basis of that information and belief alleges, that, during the summer of 2016, Defendants cleared the anomalies from the vicinity of the Mākua ahu.

37. The only allegedly safety-based reasons Defendants have ever given for their near total ban on cultural access at MMR (including their blanket ban on access to cultural sites) are (1) the lack of a vegetation management MOA to allow the grass to be cut within and on trails leading to cultural sites and (2) the alleged need for USATCES to prepare a second report with recommendations for cultural access. Despite the fact that the vegetation management MOA was completed in September 2015 and the USATCES report was completed in April 2016, removing

any arguable safety-based justification for restricting cultural access, Defendants persist in refusing to reopen cultural access.

38. Despite Mālama Mākua's repeated requests, Defendants have refused to open any of the currently closed areas at MMR – including, but not limited to, any cultural site – to cultural access, to commit to a schedule for doing so or, even, to commit to any deadline for making a decision on whether or when to reopen such access.

39. Mālama Mākua is informed and believes, and on the basis of that information and belief alleges, that, despite Mālama Mākua's repeated requests, Defendants have refused to implement the USATCES recommendations to allow access to MMR's cultural sites to resume, to commit to a schedule for doing so or, even, to commit to any deadline for making a decision on whether to implement the USATCES recommendations.

40. Despite Mālama Mākua's repeated requests, Defendants have refused to state whether they currently contend that the presence of UXO currently renders access to any area at MMR unsafe. To the extent that Defendants contend that the presence of UXO currently renders cultural access unsafe, Mālama Mākua is informed and believes, and on the basis of that information and belief alleges, that, with the possible exception of the removal of the anomalies near the Mākua ahu (which may not have included any actual UXO), Defendants have failed to remove

any UXO to allow for cultural access at MMR to resume since closing access to all cultural sites in mid-2014.

41. Pursuant to Paragraph 15(b) of the 2001 Settlement, Plaintiff Mālama Mākua provided Defendants with written notice of the violations detailed herein more than ten (10) days before filing this action.

42. In subsequent negotiations, Defendants denied that any violations have occurred and refused to take any steps to address Mālama Mākua's concerns.

### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violations of Paragraph 13 of 2001 Settlement)

43. Plaintiff Mālama Mākua realleges, as if fully set forth herein, each and every allegation in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

44. Defendants' ongoing, near total ban on cultural access at MMR (including their blanket ban on access to cultural sites) violates Paragraph 13 of the 2001 Settlement because it is not "based on requirements for training, safety, national security, [or] compliance with applicable laws and regulations."

### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violations of Paragraph 8(b) of 2001 Settlement)

45. Plaintiff Mālama Mākua realleges, as if fully set forth herein, each and every allegation in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

46. Defendants' blanket ban on access to high priority cultural sites located mauka of 1,000 meters from Farrington Highway and their failure to "make good faith efforts promptly to develop a plan and secure specific funding for the clearance of [any] UXO from these areas" that Defendants contend precludes "safe, controlled access" violate Paragraph 8(b) of the 2001 Settlement.

### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violations of Paragraph 8(a) and (b) of 2001 Settlement)

47. Plaintiff Mālama Mākua realleges, as if fully set forth herein, each and every allegation in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

48. To the extent that Defendants claim the presence of UXO renders cultural access to any area at MMR unsafe, Defendants' failure to make good faith efforts promptly to clear UXO to permit cultural access to such areas to resume violates Paragraphs 8(a) and 8(b) of the 2001 Settlement.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Mālama Mākua prays for relief as follows:

1. For a declaratory judgment that:
  - (a) Defendants' ongoing, near total ban on cultural access at MMR (including their blanket ban on access to cultural sites) violates Paragraph 13 of the 2001 Settlement;



- (b) Defendants' blanket ban on access to high priority cultural sites located mauka of 1,000 meters from Farrington Highway and their failure to make good faith efforts promptly to clear any UXO from these areas that Defendants contend precludes safe, controlled access violate Paragraph 8(b) of the 2001 Settlement; and
- (c) To the extent that Defendants claim the presence of UXO renders cultural access to any area at MMR unsafe, Defendants' failure to make good faith efforts promptly to clear UXO to permit cultural access to such areas to resume violates Paragraphs 8(a) and 8(b) of the 2001 Settlement.

2. For an order establishing a schedule for Defendants promptly to reopen access to MMR's cultural sites and other areas where Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai'anae Coast community previously had conducted cultural activities.

3. For a further order establishing prompt deadlines for Defendants to develop a plan and secure funding to clear UXO from any area at MMR where Defendants contend the presence of UXO renders unsafe the cultural access that Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai'anae Coast community had previously conducted.

4. For the Court to retain continuing jurisdiction to review Defendants' compliance with all judgments and orders entered herein.

5. For such additional judicial determinations and orders as may be necessary to effectuate the foregoing.

6. For an award of Plaintiff's costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees; and

7. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper to effectuate a complete resolution of the legal disputes between Plaintiff and Defendants.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 7, 2016.

EARTHJUSTICE

David L. Henkin

850 Richards Street, Suite 400

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

/s/ David L. Henkin

DAVID L. HENKIN

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Leases of the three sites have been removed to reduce the length of this EIS document; these are public record, and are included in Appendix G.

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DISTRICT OF HAWAII

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA MĀKUA, a Hawai'i non-profit  
corporation,

Plaintiff,

v.

DONALD H. RUMSFELD, Secretary of  
Defense; and THOMAS E. WHITE, Secretary  
of the United States Department of the Army,

Defendants.

Civil No. 00-00813 SOM-LEK

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
AND STIPULATED ORDER

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATED ORDER

WHEREAS, plaintiff Mālama Mākua filed this action alleging that the failure of defendants Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, and Thomas E. White, Secretary of the United States Department of the Army, to prepare an environmental impact statement ("EIS") for military training activities proposed for the Mākua Military Reservation ("MMR") violates the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ("NEPA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations;

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2001, this Court, upon plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction, enjoined defendants from conducting live-fire military training at MMR, pending the Court's final disposition of this case;

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to enter into this Settlement Agreement ("Agreement"), without any admission of fact or law, which they consider to be a just, fair, adequate and equitable resolution of the claims raised in this action; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the public, the parties, and judicial economy to resolve the issues in this action without protracted litigation;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties to this Agreement ("Parties") agree, and the Court orders, as follows:

1. Defendants will commence preparation and diligently pursue completion of an EIS in accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations. The EIS will address, among other things, the potential direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the proposal to resume military training activities at MMR.

2. Prior to completion of the EIS required under this Agreement and the publication in the Federal Register of a Record of Decision ("ROD") regarding the proposal to resume

military training at MMR, the U.S. Army and other Department of Defense ("DoD") components will be permitted to carry out:

- a. Up to a total of sixteen (16) Company Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercises ("CALFEXs") at MMR in the first twelve (12) months immediately following this Court's approval of this Agreement;
- b. Up to a total of nine (9) CALFEXs at MMR in the second year (the following twelve (12) months); and
- c. Up to a total of twelve (12) CALFEXs at MMR in the third year (again, the following twelve (12) months).

3. The CALFEXs authorized pursuant to paragraph 2 will be as described in section 2 of the May 15, 2001 Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Routine Training at Makua Military Reservation and PFC Pilila`au Complex ("SEA"), with the following restrictions: all training will cease in the event of (1) any training-related fire outside the south firebreak road that surrounds the Company Combined-Arms Assault Course ("CCAAC"), or (2) any training-related damage to any archeological or cultural site. Defendants shall report any training-related damage to cultural sites to the State Historical Preservation Officer ("SHPO") and may resume training only after reporting the damage to the SHPO and implementing all mitigation measures required by the Programmatic Agreement, executed by the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) ("25<sup>th</sup> ID (L)") and the U.S. Army, Hawaii on July 24, 2000. If a training-related fire starts outside of the south firebreak road, defendants shall reinitiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") pursuant to Endangered Species Act ("ESA") section 7, 16 U.S.C. § 1536, as required by the Biological Opinion, dated July 23, 1999, and may resume training only after completing that consultation and in compliance with any conditions, excluding

recommendations, FWS may impose. Defendants shall promptly report any training-related fire outside the south firebreak road or any training-related damage to any archeological or cultural site to plaintiff's counsel, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, in writing (at 223 South King Street, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813).

4. a. Defendants will complete the EIS as soon as possible. Defendants shall promptly notify plaintiff's counsel, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, in writing (at 223 South King Street, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813), when they complete the EIS required by this Agreement and shall promptly deliver copies of the EIS and ROD prepared pursuant to this Agreement.

b. In the event defendants fail to complete the EIS and publish in the Federal Register a ROD within three years from the date this Court approves this Agreement, no live fire training shall be conducted at MMR until defendants complete the EIS and publish a ROD.

c. The Parties reserve the right to seek to modify the limitations on training set forth in this Agreement due to changed circumstances. In the event that the Parties do not reach agreement on a proposed modification, either Party may bring a motion to modify the training limitations. Any such motion brought by defendants will be subject to the standards for injunctive relief in cases where a NEPA violation has been found. The provisions in this paragraph do not limit the Parties' right to seek relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60.

5. Defendants will hold public meetings both as part of the NEPA scoping process and to receive comments on the draft EIS. These meetings will provide meaningful opportunities for the public to ask questions, raise concerns, and make comments. Meetings will be scheduled at times (i.e., evenings and weekends) and places (i.e., on the Wai'anāe coast) that are convenient for the working people of the Wai'anāe Coast. All oral comments and testimony

offered at these meetings will be transcribed by a court reporter. Defendants will make good faith efforts to obtain the services of a court reporter who is capable of transcribing the Hawaiian language. In the event a court reporter can be retained who is capable of transcribing the Hawaiian language, all oral comments and testimony offered at these meetings will be transcribed in English or Hawaiian, depending on the language used by the speaker. In the event defendants are unable to retain a court reporter who is capable of transcribing the Hawaiian language, all oral comments and testimony offered at these meetings will be audiotape recorded for later transcription and translation of comments and testimony offered in Hawaiian. At a minimum, one copy of the transcript of each meeting (including English translations of any comments or testimony offered in Hawaiian, provided a translator can be retained who is capable of transcribing the Hawaiian language) will be provided promptly and free of charge to plaintiff's counsel for the use of Mālama Mākua, with an additional copy made available promptly and free of charge to the public at the Wai`anae public library.

6. As part of the preparation of the EIS for military training activities at MMR, the defendants, by and through the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L), shall:

a. Complete studies of potential contamination of soil, surface water, and ground water, and of potential impacts on air quality, associated with the proposed training activities at MMR. These studies will evaluate whether there is the potential for any contamination to be transported beyond the boundaries of MMR that may contaminate the muliwai, or any marine resource or wildlife on or near Mākua Beach. If the studies reveal the likelihood that such contamination is occurring or has occurred, defendants shall undertake additional studies of these resources (e.g., testing of fish, limu and other marine resources on which area residents rely for subsistence; testing of the muliwai for contamination). Defendants shall provide a 60-day



public comment period on the scope and protocol of these studies. The public comment periods on study protocols shall take place after the scoping process required pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1501.7 and shall be publicized pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1506.6.

b. Complete a Traditional Cultural Places ("TCP") Survey, as defined by federal law, that follows the State of Hawai'i Office of Environmental Quality Control's Guidelines for Assessing Cultural Impacts (Nov. 19, 1997). The contractor performing the TCP survey shall be chosen from the Office of Environmental Quality Control's Directory of Cultural Impact Assessment Providers (Aug. 26, 1998).

c. Complete (1) surface and subsurface archeological surveys of all areas within the CCAAC training area circumscribed by the south firebreak road and (2) surface archaeological surveys of all the Surface Danger Zone ("SDZ") areas, as shown in Figure 2-2 of the SEA, located outside the south firebreak road. There will be no archaeological surveys of areas suspected of containing Improved Conventional Munitions ("ICMs") without the appropriate waiver from the Headquarters, Department of the Army ("HQDA"). The 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall make good faith efforts to secure waivers from the HQDA to perform archaeological surveys of areas suspected of containing ICMs. The surface survey outside the south firebreak road will take place only after the area has been burned and surveyed for unexploded ordnance ("UXO"), and will be subject to any limitations imposed by FWS in ESA section 7 consultation and any limitations on clearance of UXO based on technical feasibility. If the surface archaeological survey or information from remote sensing or other sources indicates the likely presence of a subsurface archaeological site outside the south firebreak road, the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall conduct a subsurface survey of that potential site, subject to issuance of any required ICM waiver, technical feasibility, specific funding for UXO clearance (which the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall

make good faith efforts to secure and defendants shall provide to the maximum extent practicable), and any limitations imposed by FWS in ESA section 7 consultation. No archaeological subsurface surveys will be conducted under conditions that an Army Explosive and Ordnance ("EOD") Safety Officer determines are too dangerous. The EOD Safety Officer will be the final arbiter on the matter of safety.

7. If the studies described in paragraph 6a, supra, reveal the potential for off-site soil, air, ground water or surface water contamination, defendants, through the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L), shall undertake a long-term program to monitor such contamination. The scope and duration of the monitoring program will be addressed in the protocols as developed by defendants. Defendants shall provide a 60-day public comment period on the scope of, and protocol for, such monitoring.

8. Defendants, through the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L), shall address UXO at MMR in the following manner:

a. In order to reduce the risk to individuals on Mākua Beach and Farrington Highway, the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall finalize and submit to HQDA for approval a plan for UXO clearance for the area within MMR extending 1,000 meters mauka (towards the mountains) from Farrington Highway. The 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall continue to make good faith efforts to secure the necessary funding for this phase of UXO clearance, beginning with a request for funding in Fiscal Year 2002. Subject to specific funding for UXO clearance, safety requirements and any limitations imposed by FWS in ESA section 7 consultation, clearance activities in this area shall be completed as soon as practicable.

b. In addition, within one year of the date of settlement, the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall identify additional, high priority areas at MMR for UXO clearance, with the focus on increasing access to cultural sites. The 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall provide meaningful opportunities for the people of

the Wai`anae Coast to participate in identifying and prioritizing these areas, including releasing draft plans for public review and holding meetings at which the public will have the chance to ask questions, raise concerns and make comments and suggestions. After identifying these additional, high priority areas, the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) shall make good faith efforts promptly to develop a plan and secure specific funding for the clearance of UXO from these areas to provide safe, controlled access to identified cultural sites. The clearance plan and activities are subject to any limitations imposed by FWS in ESA section 7 consultation, safety requirements, available funds specifically for UXO clearance, and available and appropriate technologies and methods.

c. Beginning on the first anniversary of this Agreement, and every year thereafter on the anniversary of this Agreement, the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L), or any successor U.S. Army command, shall provide to the people of the Wai`anae Coast an annual report describing its progress in clearing UXO from MMR. At a minimum, one copy of each annual progress report will be provided promptly and free of charge to plaintiff's counsel for the use of Mālama Mākua, with an additional copy made available promptly and free of charge to the public at the Wai`anae public library.

9. Defendants shall provide Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai`anae Coast community with technical assistance, at a cost not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), to facilitate public participation in the NEPA process, as described below.

a. Purpose: The intent of this provision is to provide technical assistance to Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai`anae Coast community to help them better understand the technical issues and study protocols to be used during the NEPA process at MMR. This assistance shall be provided by a technical assistant or assistants, who will review the technical issues and study protocols to be used during the preparation of the EIS and provide

input to Mālama Mākua, other members of the Wai`anae Coast community and defendants regarding same. The technical assistant(s) will seek to help Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai`anae Coast community understand the issues involved during the EIS process in order to facilitate and inform public participation and comment in the scoping process and in the public comment periods for the EIS study protocols (discussed in paragraph 6a, supra) and for the draft EIS. This assistance will be limited to facilitating and informing the public's participation and comment concerning technical issues during the scoping process and public comment periods on the EIS study protocols and the draft EIS.

b. Technical Assistant(s). Within thirty (30) days following the Court's approval of this Agreement, the Parties will establish mutually agreed upon qualifications for such assistant(s). Thereafter, Mālama Mākua and other members of the Wai`anae Coast community may submit applications nominating individuals who meet those qualifications for contract, with a copy of each application promptly provided to plaintiff's counsel on behalf of Mālama Mākua. Within ten (10) working days of the date an application for technical assistance is received, the Parties shall raise any objections thereto (e.g., disagreement with the qualifications or appropriateness of a nominated individual or the compensation to be paid for the proposed scope of services). If there is no objection to an application, it shall be promptly granted. If either Party objects to an application, the Parties and the person or organization that submitted the application ("Applicant") will promptly meet and confer in a good faith attempt to resolve any objections (e.g., reach agreement on the person nominated, find a suitable and mutually acceptable replacement, or modify the compensation to be paid). Final action on any application will be taken within fifteen (15) days of receipt, unless the Applicant and the Parties agree to a

longer period of time. No application for technical assistance will be granted if, following the informal resolution process described in this paragraph, any Party still objects.

10. The Parties agree that plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this litigation and will attempt to reach agreement as to the amount of such award. If the Parties are unable to do so, plaintiff may file an application with this Court for the recovery of fees and costs no later than November 16, 2001.

11. Defendants shall transport explosives, grenades, mines, artillery rounds, anti-tank rounds, and mortar rounds to MMR by airlift, provided such airlift is available and weather permits. When airlift is unavailable or weather does not permit, defendants agree that any transport of such munitions and ordnance by way of Farrington Highway will avoid the hours from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Further, defendants agree that transport of all other munitions and ordnance by way of Farrington Highway will avoid peak traffic hours and times when children are traveling to or from school (i.e., from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.).

12. At least one member of Mālama Mākua will be allowed access as an observer to each live-fire training exercise at MMR, post-training UXO cleanup, and post-training evaluation of damage to cultural sites. Defendants shall provide written notice to plaintiff's counsel, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, at least five (5) working days prior to each live-fire training exercise at MMR. The extent and terms of the access, including the maximum number of observers allowed, will be determined by defendants, in consultation with Mālama Mākua, based on requirements for training, safety, national security and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Other members of the Wai`anae Coast community seeking access as observers shall

make their requests to the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L), as established by protocols to be developed by defendants within thirty (30) days following the Court's approval of this Agreement

13. Members of the Wai`anae Coast community, including Mālama Mākua, will be allowed daytime access (sunrise to sunset) to MMR to conduct cultural activities at least twice a month. Additionally, members of the Wai`anae Coast community, including Mālama Mākua, will be allowed overnight access (from two hours before sunset on the first day until two hours after sunset on the second day) to MMR to conduct cultural activities on at least two additional occasions per year. During the first year following the Court's approval of this Agreement, Mālama Mākua will be allowed overnight access on at least one additional occasion -- from December 14 through December 15, 2001 -- for observance of the Makahiki. Access to the Ukanipō Heiau is subject to the Ukanipō Heiau Advisory Council per the Programmatic Agreement signed by the 25<sup>th</sup> ID (L) on October 12, 2000. The cultural access provided for in this paragraph will be subject to limitations determined by defendants in consultation with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, including those from Mālama Mākua, based on requirements for training, safety, national security, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Parties will establish protocols for this access promptly, with the first daytime access taking place no later than sixty (60) days following the Court's approval of this Agreement and the first overnight access taking place no later than the December 14-15, 2001 Makahiki observance described above.

#### FUNDING

14. Nothing in this Agreement relieves defendants of the obligation to act in a manner consistent with applicable federal, state or local law, and applicable appropriations law. No provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted as or constitute a commitment or requirement

that defendants obligate or pay funds in contravention of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341, or any other applicable law or regulation.

#### ENFORCEMENT OF THIS AGREEMENT

15. a. This Court has jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement. See Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of America, 511 U.S. 375 (1994).

b. This Agreement may be modified by the Court upon good cause shown by written stipulation between the Parties filed with and approved by the Court, or upon written motion filed by either Party and granted by the Court. In the event that either Party seeks to modify the terms of this Agreement, including any of the deadlines for any action set forth herein, or in the event of a dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or in the event that either Party believes that the other Party has failed to comply with any term or condition of this Agreement, the Party seeking the modification, raising the dispute or seeking enforcement, shall provide the other Party with written notice of the claim. The Parties agree that they will meet and confer (in-person not required) at the earliest possible time in a good faith effort to resolve the claim before bringing any matter to the Court. If the Parties are unable to resolve the claim within ten (10) days after the notice, either Party may bring the claim to the Court. The requirement to wait ten (10) days before bringing a claim to the Court shall not prohibit plaintiff from immediately seeking a temporary restraining order if plaintiff alleges that defendants have violated the limitations on training set forth in paragraph(s) 2 or 3.

#### USE OF AGREEMENT

16. a. This Agreement was negotiated and executed by the Parties in good faith to avoid expensive and protracted litigation and is a settlement of claims and defenses which were vigorously contested, denied and disputed. This Agreement shall not constitute an admission or

adjudication with respect to any allegation made by any Party. Moreover, this Agreement shall not constitute an admission of any wrongdoing, misconduct or liability on the part of the defendants. Further, this Agreement shall not constitute an acknowledgment by plaintiff that there was no wrongdoing, misconduct or liability.

b. Plaintiff reserves its right to bring subsequent actions challenging the adequacy of the EIS that defendants will prepare pursuant to this Agreement. This Agreement shall not constitute an admission by plaintiff that defendants' compliance with the Agreement satisfies their obligations under NEPA.

#### DISMISSAL OF THIS ACTION & DISSOLUTION OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

17. a. This case shall be dismissed with prejudice, except for plaintiff's claim for an award of attorneys' fees and costs, which is left for resolution through future negotiation or motion practice. Judgment shall not be entered in this case prior to entry of an order resolving plaintiff's claim for an award of attorneys' fees and costs.

b. The preliminary injunction entered by the Court on July 16, 2001 is hereby dissolved.

#### AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN

18. This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon the Parties, their members, delegates and assigns. The undersigned representatives certify that they are authorized by the Party or Parties they represent to enter into the Agreement and to execute and legally bind that Party or Parties to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

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Executed this 4th day of October, 2001.

ELLIOT ENOKI, United States Attorney  
THEODORE G. MEEKER, Assistant United States Attorney  
District of Hawai'i  
Room 6-100, PJKK Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850

By: 

Theodore G. Meeker

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EARTHJUSTICE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND  
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By: 

David L. Henkin  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Mālama Mākua v. Rumsfeld, et al., Civil No. 00-00813 SOM-LEK (D. Haw.); SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT AND STIPULATED ORDER

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED:

Dated:

SUSAN OKI MOLLWAY

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SUSAN OKI MOLLWAY  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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Mālama Mākua v. Rumsfeld, et al., Civil No. 00-00813 SOM-LEK (D. Haw.); SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT AND STIPULATED ORDER

GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION FOR  
OBSERVATION OF TRAINING, DAY/NIGHT ACCESS, AND THE DECEMBER 14-15, 2001  
OBSERVANCE OF THE MAKAHIKI

1. References:

- a. Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order, *Malama Makua v. Dept. of the Army*, dated 4 October 2001.
- b. 25<sup>th</sup> ID(L) & USARHAW Regulation 210-6, Ranges and Training Areas, 23 March 1999.
- c. Policy Memorandum, Training Areas and Operational Guidelines for Entry Into Hazardous Areas, Enclosure 1
- d. HQDA Letter 385-01-1, Improved Conventional Munitions and Submunitions, Enclosure 2
- e. Programmatic Agreement, Ukanipo Heiau, 12 October 2000
- f. Interim Guidance on Observation of Training by Members of Malama Makua and/or Members of the Wai`anae Coast, dated 12 October 2001
- g. Access Policy for Makua Military Reservation (MMR) (*Draft*), 18 October 2001

2. Purpose.

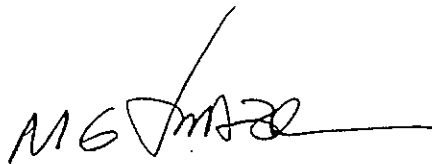
- a. On 4 October 2001, the settlement agreement between Malama Makua and the Department of the Army [hereinafter, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW] provides that at least one member of Malama Makua will be allowed access as an observer to each live-fire training exercise at Makua Military Reservation (MMR), post-training Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) cleanup, and post-training evaluation of damage to cultural sites. The extent and terms of access by members of Malama Makua, will be determined by The Department of the Army, in consultation with Malama Makua, based on requirements for training, safety, national security and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- b. The agreement further provides that other members of the Wai`anae Coast community seeking access may request to attend training by submitting a request to 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW.
- c. Members of the Wai`anae Coast community, including Malama Makua, will be allowed daytime access (sunrise to sunset) to MMR at least twice a month. Access to specific cultural sites will be subject to limitations determined by 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, in consultations with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, including those from Malama Makua, based on training, safety, national security, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The first daytime access will take place no later than sixty (60) days following the Settlement Agreement, which is 3 December 2001.
- d. Further, members of the Wai`anae Coast community, including Malama Makua, will be allowed overnight access (two hours before sunset on the first day until two hours after sunset on the second day) on at least two additional occasions per year. On 14-15 December 2001, Malama Makua will be allowed an additional overnight access for observance of the Makahiki. Access to specific cultural sites will be subject to limitations determined by 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, in consultation with

SUBJECT: Guidance on Public Access to Makau Military Reservation for Observation of Training, Day/Night Access, and the December 14-15, 2001 Observance of the Makahiki

native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, including those from Malama Makua, based on training, safety, national security, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The first overnight access will take place no later than the 14-15 December 2001 Makahiki observance.

3. The protocol regarding public access to observe training is set forth in Appendix A. The protocols for day and night public access are set forth in Appendix B (TBD).

4. Any requests to supplement or change the protocols will be submitted in writing to Commander, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, ATTN: Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. The Staff Judge Advocate, or his or her designee, will staff the request through the appropriate personnel within 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Once complete, the Staff Judge Advocate will provide notice of the requested supplement or change to Malama Makua, through EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, for consultation consistent with the settlement agreement. As with these protocols, Commander, 25th Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will make the final decision regarding any supplement or change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMD', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JAMES M. DUBIK  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

## APPENDIX A

### ACCESS BY MEMBERS OF MALAMA MAKUA AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE WAI'ANAE COAST TO OBSERVE TRAINING AT MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION

#### 1. REQUIRED ADVANCE NOTICE OF LIVE-FIRE TRAINING EXERCISE.

A. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will provide written notice (by U.S. mail or facsimile transmission) to Malama Makua, through its counsel Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund (at 223 South King Street, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813; fax: (808) 521-6841), so that notice is received at least five (5) working days prior to each live-fire training iteration (including any artillery or mortar registration) at Makua Military Reservation (MMR).

B. The notice shall also include a schedule for the planned live-fire training iteration, including expected start and end times for the artillery or mortar registration, blank fire, and the live-fire exercise, unexploded ordnance (UXO) clean-up, and cultural site evaluation. It is understood that actual start times for the training events may slip for various reasons. An updated schedule will be made available on a daily basis to Malama Makua.

C. If, for any reason, training times and events must be rescheduled following notice described in paragraph 1.A., supra, the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will promptly notify Malama Makua, through its counsel, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund. Finally, whenever the schedule is updated or modified, a copy will be faxed to Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund at (808) 521-6841. In addition, if Malama Makua has already provided a list of observers pursuant to paragraph 4.A., infra, the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will make good faith efforts to notify those observers of the need to reschedule.

#### 2. NUMBER OF OBSERVERS FOR MALAMA MAKUA.

A. The total number of observers from Malama Makua will not exceed five (5) persons at any one time. This number does not include invited members of the media or other invited guests by the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, including any members of the Wai'anae Coast community observing pursuant to paragraph 3, infra.. No minors (under the age of 18) are allowed. Malama Makua may invite individuals who are not members of Malama Makua to participate as observers, and any such individuals will count against Malama Makua's total number of observers. Malama Makua may arrange for observers to substitute for one another during the day of observation, provided that Malama Makua provides advance notice, pursuant to paragraph 4.A., infra, of all individuals who will observe on that day.

B. In the event of an unusual occurrence or situation, Malama Makua may request permission from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW to have more than five observers. The request will set forth the reason for the additional observers. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will consider each request and decide whether to grant permission for the additional observers.

#### 3. NUMBER OF OBSERVERS FOR MEMBERS OF WAI'ANAE COAST. The total number of observers for members of the Wai'anae Coast who are not affiliated with Malama Makua will not exceed five (5) persons at any one time. This number does not include invited members of the media or other invited guests by the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW. No minors (under the age of 18) are allowed.

SUBJECT: Guidance on Public Access to Makau Military Reservation . . Observation of Training, Day/Night Access, and the December 14-15, 2001 Observance of the Makahiki

4. REQUIRED ADVANCE NOTICE OF ATTENDANCE.

A. When notice is provided in accordance with paragraph 1.A, supra, Malama Makua will provide written notice (email is considered written notice) to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, (Attn: Staff Judge Advocate), Bldg. 580, Room 100, Schofield Barracks, HI, 96857-6000 (Fax: (808) 655-8740)(email: [sjaadmin@schofield.army.mil](mailto:sjaadmin@schofield.army.mil) or [firstname.lastname@schofield.army.mil](mailto:firstname.lastname@schofield.army.mil)), with the names and phone numbers of the observers no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the day of the training-related event the observers want to see. The phone number is requested in case the scheduled training is delayed or rescheduled on short notice due to weather or other event. If the scheduled training is delayed or rescheduled due to weather or other conditions, Malama Makua will provide written notice of observer attendance as soon as possible after receiving notice of the new training schedule.

B. Members of the Wai`anae Coast, who are not affiliated with Malama Makua, will submit a written request (email is considered written notice) to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, (Attn: Public Affairs Office, Community Relations), Bldg. 580, Schofield Barracks, HI 96857 (Fax: 655-9290)(email: [Amy.Lutey@schofield.army.mil](mailto:Amy.Lutey@schofield.army.mil) or [firstname.lastname@schofield.army.mil](mailto:firstname.lastname@schofield.army.mil)). The request will include the names and phone numbers of the observers, as well as a point of contact no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the training the observers want to see. The Public Affairs Office will notify the point of contact upon receipt and coordinate for observation of training with the point of contact.

C. Escorts. The 25th Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will provide one escort for every five (5) observers. Any personnel designated as an escort will receive a briefing from Range Control Personnel prior to assuming escort duties.

5. REQUIRED ACTIONS UPON ARRIVAL AT MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION.

A. Upon arrival at MMR, the observers will be required to provide at least one form of picture identification prior to entry. Additionally, consistent with current force protection measures, each observer, and any of their bags, may be subject to search. Upon arrival, the observers will log in at the Makua Range Control office. Any observer who arrives to substitute for an observer as described in para. 2.A., supra, must also log in at Makua Range Control office.

B. At the time of arrival, each observer will be required to sign the waiver of liability (Enclosure).

C. Range Control personnel will give a safety brief to each observer prior to their observation of training. The presentation of the safety brief will, to the extent practicable, be timed to allow observers to observe the entirety of each training-related event (generally, they will be scheduled approximately 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled event). However, no training-related event will be held up or suspended because the safety brief is not complete.

D. The Army will provide an escort to stay with observers and answer questions as appropriate. To the extent practicable, observers will be provided an overview of the training events that are occurring during their visit.

E. If requested, a copy of the burn index worksheet will be provided to Malama Makua when its observer(s) sign in. At the conclusion of the training exercise, if requested, another copy will be provided to Malama Makua.

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F. All observers must comply with specified Army guidelines described herein or specified in the safety briefing. The Army reserves the right to take any appropriate action, to include removal of any observer from MMR who is acting in a disruptive manner. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, acts that endanger themselves or others, failure to abide by guidance from the escorts, or attempting to enter unauthorized areas of MMR.

## 6. LOCATION FOR OBSERVATION OF TRAINING.

### A. LOCATION OF OBSERVATION FOR DRY, BLANK, AND LIVE-FIRE TRAINING.

1. The authorized area for observation of dry, blank, and live-fire exercise is the Range Control area from the fenced area around the Range Control buildings and the Observation Tower. The primary location for observation of training during the live-fire exercise will be the Range Control Tower.
2. Those observers who for any reason are unable to climb the Range Control Tower will be provided an alternate location to observe training, such as the ground level at the base of the Tower.
3. No more than eight (8) personnel, to include the training unit's three (3) fire-watchers, will observe training from the Tower Deck at one time. An escort will also be present during any observation. Accordingly, a maximum of four (4) observers will be able to observe from the Tower Deck at any one time. Other observers must remain at the lower level. To the extent both members of Malama Makua and other members of the Wai'anae Coast community are present for training, the number of observers on the Tower Deck will be, to the extent practicable, evenly split between the various groups. At least one member of Malama Makua observer, to the extent possible, will be allowed on the Tower Deck during the dry, blank and live-fire training. The Range OIC, consistent with safety considerations, is the final authority on personnel in the Range Tower.

### B. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS FOR UXO CLEARANCE.

1. During the survey phase of UXO clearance, observers will be taken, with an escort, to an area, such as the fire-break road, for observation of the UXO sweep by EOD personnel. The actual location will be determined in accordance with the minimum safe distance requirements as determined by 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW.
2. If UXO from the live-fire exercise is found during the survey, EOD will mark the location of the UXO. Then, one Malama Makua observer will be escorted to observe the location where the UXO was found. The location will be determined in accordance with the minimum safe distance requirements as determined by 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW.
3. Upon discovery of UXO from the live-fire exercise, EOD will either remove the UXO to a central location on MMR for demilitarization at a later time or will demilitarize the UXO at that site. During any demilitarization, for the safety reasons, all observation will be done from Range Control area, including the Range Control Tower, subject to restrictions set forth in paragraph 6.A.3, supra. At no time will observers be allowed onto the range until cleared to do so by Range Control personnel.
4. If the decision is made to conduct demilitarization of UXO from the live-fire exercise at a later time, the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW shall ensure that Malama Makua has the opportunity to observe the demilitarization. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will

SUBJECT: Guidance on Public Access to Makau Military Reservation . . . Observation of Training, Day/Night Access, and the December 14-15, 2001 Observance of the Makahiki

notify Malama Makua, through its counsel, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, of the date and time for such observation.

5. After EOD has completed the demilitarization and declared the range safe, observers will be allowed to go, with escorts, to view the site of the demilitarization.

#### C. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS FOR OBSERVATION OF POST-TRAINING EVALUATION OF DAMAGE TO CULTURAL SITES.

1. Following each live-fire training iteration, Malama Makua observers shall be allowed access to observe the post-training evaluation of cultural sites. Range Control personnel and DPW Cultural Resources office will determine the schedule for visits to the cultural sites.

2. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will, to the extent practicable, make a vehicle available to facilitate the observance of the Army's post-training evaluation of the cultural sites. If a specific concern about one or more cultural sites arose during the live-fire training, Malama Makua may identify the site(s) and ask the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW to conduct the post-training evaluation of any such site(s) first. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW shall accommodate such requests to the maximum extent practicable.

3. Observers, for safety reasons, will not be allowed to roam freely. They must remain with escorts at all times and will be allowed access to specific sites using specific routes outlined by Range Control Personnel, DPW Cultural Resources Office, and their escorts. Observers will not touch or pick up any brass, ammunition, or any other item found on the ground. If observers find any item on the ground, they should bring this to the attention of the escort, Range Control personnel or the DPW Cultural Resource office personnel.

4. If needed, the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will provide Malama Makua or other observers with appropriate protective gear, such as kevlar helmets and/or body armor, to allow them to observe post-training evaluation of cultural sites.

5. Entry into any improved conventional munitions (ICM) area is strictly prohibited unless a properly issued waiver is obtained.

#### 7. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING CONCERNS ABOUT TRAINING.

A. If during any training-related event, an incident occurs that causes concern to Malama Makua or other observers, such as an errant round, suspected fire, or other incident, the observer will use the following method to bring this to the attention of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW:

1. At the end of each training-related event, any concerned observer, shall submit, in writing, his or her concern about any event that occurred during the training. As completely as possible, the observer will describe what occurred that caused them concern.

2. A computer and printer will be made available at Range Control to allow the observer to write their concerns. The statement will be signed by the observer and submitted to Range Control personnel. A copy will be provided to the observer.



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3. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will provide a written response to Malama Makua, through Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, addressing the concern(s) raised by the observer as expeditiously as possible.

4. Observers are strongly encouraged to submit their concerns prior to leaving the Makua Military Reservation at the end of the day. If observers submit their concerns at any other time, the failure to timely submit the concern may prevent the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW from being able to properly respond to the concern raised by the observer.

#### 8. USE OF RANGE CONTROL FACILITIES.

A. No personal vehicles will be allowed onto the range. Observers will park their vehicle in designated parking locations. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division will provide the necessary vehicles for use on the range during UXO clearance and post-training examination of cultural sites. To the extent necessary, and subject to safety considerations, the Department of the Army will provide any appropriate protective gear, such as kevlar helmets and/or body armor, if needed.

B. Access to the Range Control buildings during range operations is limited to the latrine area to include the watercooler. Observers may also use the conference room when invited Range Control personnel. Observers may not enter the working area of the building unless invited by Range Control. If, during range operations, Malama Makua observers would like to check the burn index, Range Control personnel will either bring it outside to the observer or it will be posted outside.

C. There is no photography or videotaping allowed inside the Range Control Building.

D. The Range Control telephone is for official business only. To the extent that observers need to make a phone call, it will be brought outside the Range Control Building. Observers should limit their calls to a maximum of five (5) minutes.

#### 9. MISCELLANEOUS.

A. The use of alcohol on MMR is strictly prohibited.

B. Observers are encouraged to bring any food or drinks they will desire with them. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW will have water available.

C. Smoking is allowed in the vicinity of the Range Control Building and Tower, but it is discouraged due to the area fire hazard. Smoking is strictly prohibited on the range east of the red range gate.

D. There will be medical personnel on the range. However, Army Regulations provide that medical care may be provided only in emergency situations. It is requested that observers notify their escorts of any special medical needs in the event an emergency occurs, to allow for proper treatment.

E. Observers are free to use binoculars, take any photos or video they desire while viewing training-related events, subject to the following restrictions:

1. During the hours of darkness, no flash photography;
2. Observers are encouraged to ask questions of the escorts, but not allowed to conduct any formal interviews with any soldiers;

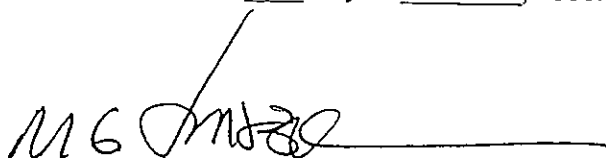
SUBJECT: Guidance on Public Access to Makau Military Reservation for Observation of Training, Day/Night Access, and the December 14-15, 2001 Observance of the Makahiki

3. If an observer is a member of the media or broadcasting a media event, the observer will coordinate with the Public Affairs Office just as all other media outlets are required to do; and,
4. As set forth above, photos and video are prohibited inside the Range Control building.

F. It is recommended that observers wear flat shoes and comfortable clothing to facilitate the climb to observation tower as well as their movements during the post-training phases. For safety reasons, covered shoes are required while on MMR, except the area around Range Control and the Range Control Tower.

10. This guidance will remain in effect until such time as modified by the Commander, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) & USARHAW, in consultation with Malama Makua. Modifications to this guidance may occur due to changes on requirements for training, safety, national security and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Executed this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of November, 2001.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J M Dubik', is written over a horizontal line.

JAMES M. DUBIK  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, HAWAII  
851 WRIGHT AVENUE, WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD  
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-5000

Office of the Commander

12 JUNE 2009

## HIGH PRIORITY SITE LIST FOR UXO CLEARANCE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to paragraph 8(b) of the October 4, 2001 Settlement Agreement in the action entitled *Malama Makua v. Rumsfeld*, and the April 9, 2008 Amended Order by the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii in the action entitled *Malama Makua v. Gates*, the United States Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI) hereby publishes this list (ENCLOSURE 1) of sites deemed "high priority" for unexploded ordinance (UXO) clearance with a focus on increasing access to cultural sites.

### 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

During the process of identifying these sites, USAG-HI provided meaningful opportunities for the people of the Wai'anae Coast to participate in identifying and prioritizing these areas.

Community input was solicited and received at multiple community meetings. USAG-HI also provided contact information for anyone who wished to provide input at a time or place outside of the community meetings. USAG-HI relied heavily on this community input when creating this list, along with considerations of safety to human health and environmental concerns.

### 3.0 CLEARANCE

The finalized list is intended to represent the priority in which USAG-HI, based on community input, will conduct UXO clearance. The clearance is subject to the availability of funds, safety concerns, environmental law requirements and available and appropriate technologies and methods. The numerical listing is not intended to represent a value judgment as to the relative

importance of any individual site as opposed to any other site, but is merely an administrative tool to expedite the greatest degree of cultural access in the shortest amount of time, as the public requested.

#### 4.0 FUNDING


While USAG-HI cannot guarantee funding will be available in sufficient amounts to clear every site, USAG-HI will make a good faith effort to secure funding, and will award contracts for clearance based on Department of the Army guidelines for such awards.

#### 5.0 ICM AREA SITES

Sites 4540, 5587, 5588, 5589, and 5590 are at the bottom of this list, as they are in the Improved Conventional Munitions (ICM) area, and are deemed too dangerous to clear. If, at some point in the future, technology improves and we are able to clear ICM sites, USAG-HI will make a good faith effort to do so. However, at this time, due to safety concerns, those five sites cannot be cleared.

#### 6.0 CONCLUSION

USAG-HI recognizes the cultural importance of each and every feature contained within the sites on this list. USAG-HI will perform good faith efforts to provide safe and controlled access to these areas as envisioned by the 2001 Settlement. It is conceivable that UXO clearance at some sites will be insufficient to allow safe and controlled access, although USAG-HI will make good faith efforts to do so.

  
MATTHEW T. MARGOTTA  
COL, US Army  
Commanding

Enclosure

Enclosure 1

1. Site 6603
2. Site 6596
3. Site 4536
4. Site 4542
5. Site 6613
6. Site 6621
7. Site 6593
8. Site 6597
9. Site 6505
10. Site 6508
11. Site 6506
12. Site 4627
13. Site 4628
14. Site 4629
15. Site 4630
16. Site 5920
17. Site 9523
18. Site 4540
19. Site 5587
20. Site 5588
21. Site 5589
22. Site 5590

Sites 12 – 17 are the “Blue Trail” Sites.

Sites 18 – 22 are located within an ICM area.

# **Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification of Public Access Priorities**

## **Makua Military Reservation**

### **Oahu, Hawaii**

In the sites listed, location information identifying sites including maps have been redacted for the confidentiality of archaeological resource information.

USAG-HI, Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Division  
947 Wright Avenue, WAAF  
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5013

February 2009

**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
177	n/a	cave	no	n/a		80	1	<5	0	no	n/a	no	McAllister 1933
178	n/a	sand platform	see 5926	14 x 24.5		20	3	<5	0	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Thrum 1906
179	n/a	platform	no	17 x 11		10	1	130	0	no	n/a	no	McAllister 1933
180	n/a	platform	no	24.5 x 24.5		20	3	50	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Thrum 1906
182	n/a	modified spring	no	n/a		10	1	60	0	n/a	n/a	no	McAllister 1933
183	n/a	platform	no	3 x 3		40	10	70	0	no	moderate ( >4 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	no	McAllister 1933
4536	3	walls, stone lined well	no	60 x 45		400	16	90	0	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Eble et al. 1995
4537	14	mounds, terrace, wall, platform	no	253 x 200		200	8	<5	0	no	light-moderate (partially groomed to >4 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Eble et al. 1995
4538	3	enclosure, c-shapes	no	60 x 45		80	10	90	1	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	yes	Eble et al. 1995
4539	1	wall	no	15 x 5		240	16	250	0	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	yes	Eble et al. 1995
4540	22	terraces, walls, enclosures, platforms, c-shapes	no	120 x 80		400	6	195	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Eble et. al 1995
4541	11	walls, enclosures, c-shapes	no	370 x 340		40	3	<5	0	yes	light-moderate (partially groomed to >4 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Eble et al. 1995
4542	77	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures, platform, C-shapes, caches	no	460 x 150		400	9	<5	0	yes	light-heavy (partially groomed to >6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Eble et al. 1995; Zulick and Cox 2001
4543	52	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures, C-shapes, fire pit	no	665 x 200		200	7	100	1	yes	light-heavy (partially groomed to >6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Eble et al. 1995; Williams et al. 2002

\* Stream crossings would require UXO clearance after every major rain event

\*\* Other than areas cleared to a depth of 1-foot, we must assume UXO is present. Sites within ICM area cannot be cleared due to extreme hazard.

**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
4544	29	mounds, terraces, enclosures, alignments, C-shapes, petroglyph	yes	240 x 150		160	8	200	1	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	yes	Eble et al. 1995; Williams et al. 2002
4545	4	mounds, wall	no	156 x 115		120	8	40	0	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	yes	Eble et al. 1995
4546	22	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures	no	325 x 125		40	7	90	1	yes	light-heavy (partially groomed to >6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Eble et al. 1995; Williams and Patolo 2000
4547	4	mounds, wall, enclosure	no	40 x 30		360	7	100	0	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	yes	Eble et al. 1995; Williams et al. 2002
4627	25+	mounds, terraces, enclosure	no	120 x 50		1200	26	1900	10+	no	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/christmas berry	yes	Carlson et al. 1996
4628	3+	mound, terraces, cache	no	n/a		1240	26	1750	8+	no	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/christmas berry	yes	Carlson et al. 1996
4629	3+	mounds	no	n/a		1280	26	1650	7+	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Carlson et al. 1996
4630	5	terraces, wall, spring	no	20 x 22		1120	26	730	5+	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) strawberry quava/java plum	yes	Carlson et al. 1996
5456	11	earth ovens ( <i>imu</i> )	no	540 x 160		280	4	<5	1	no	light (<1 foot high, groomed) guinea grass	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Williams and Patolo 2000
5587	4	mound, terrace, enclosures	no	75 x 25		440	10	300	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Williams and Patolo 2000
5588	2+	terraces	no	15 x 9		440	10	260	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Williams and Patolo 2000
5589	2+	terrace, platform	no	18 x 18		480	10	200	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Williams and Patolo 2000
5590	3+	terrace, mound, modified boulder (pecked)	yes	35 x 8		480	10	155	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Williams and Patolo 2000
5595	3+	walls, enclosure	no	220 x 100		600	16	<5	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Williams et al. 2002

\* Stream crossings would require UXO clearance after every major rain event

\*\* Other than areas cleared to a depth of 1-foot, we must assume UXO is present. Sites within ICM area cannot be cleared due to extreme hazard.



**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
5734	1	enclosure	no	3 x 2		360	39	125	0	no	light-moderate (<1 foot - 4 feet high, groomed) mixed grass	yes	Williams et al. 2002
5735	1	lithic scatter	no	5 x 3		320	31	120	0	no	light-moderate (<1 foot to 4 feet high) mixed grass	yes	Williams et al. 2002
5920	20-30	mounds, walls, modified boulder (pecked)	yes	180 x 70		1200	12	1970	10+	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/christmas berry	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5921	5	mounds, terrace, alignment	no	250 x 50		840	9	375	3+	no	moderate-high (4 to >6 feet high) java plum/strawberry guava/guinea grass/koa hoale	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5922	6	mound, alignment, modified outcrop	no	130 x 30		840	13	300	3+	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) strawberry guava/java plum/koa hoale	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5923	37	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures, platforms, alignments, c-shape,uprights, modified outcrop	no	135 x 110		680	13	130	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/guinea grass/koa hoale	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5924	2	alignments	no	15 x 15		800	11	360	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/guinea grass	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5925	20+	walls	no	220 x 220		80	46	160	0	no	moderate ( >4 feet high) mixed grass	no	Zulick and Cox 2001
5926	13	wall, upright slabs, modified outcrop, well, dike fed spring, petroglyph	yes	390 x 280		20	3	<5	0-1	yes	light-heavy (partially groomed to >6 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	partially cleared to depth of 1-foot	Zulick and Cox 2001
5927	13	walls, enclosure, alignment	no	725 x 210		20	7	<5	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5928	1	wall	no	2 x 2		± 1000	± 31	± 275	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	yes	Zulick and Cox 2001
5929	3	bunker, gun emplacement, platform	no	30 x 30		60	39	25	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	no	Zulick and Cox 2001
5930	2	platforms	no	25 x 25		60	26	30	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	no	Zulick and Cox 2001

\* Stream crossings would require UXO clearance after every major rain event

\*\* Other than areas cleared to a depth of 1-foot, we must assume UXO is present. Sites within ICM area cannot be cleared due to extreme hazard.

**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
5931	1	wall	no	70 x 1		80	12	70	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	no	Zulick and Cox 2001
5932	1	path with retaining wall	no	1080 x 65		40	31	15	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	no	Zulick and Cox 2001
9518	1	trail	no	n/a		300	19	175	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Rosendahl 1977
9520 (reassigned to 5775-5778 in Robins et al. 2005)		Ukanipo Heiau Site Complex											Rosendahl 1977
9521 (reassigned to 6607 in Robins et al. 2005)		see 6607											Rosendahl 1977
9522 (reassigned to 6601, 6596, 6598 in Robins et al. 2005)		see 6601, 6596, 6598											Rosendahl 1977
9523 (reassigned to 4627-4629, 5920 in Robins et al. 2005)		see 4627, 4629, 5920											Rosendahl 1977
9524 (reassigned to 4542, 4547, 5923 in Robins et al. 2005)		see 4542, 4547, 5923											Rosendahl 1977
9525	1	wall	no	190 x 75		200	31	<5	0	no	moderate-heavy (4 to >6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Rosendahl 1977
9526 (reassigned to 5926 in Robins et al. 2005)		see 5926											Rosendahl 1977

\* Stream crossings would require UXO clearance after every major rain event

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9533	1	terrace	no	16 x 12		80	31	25	0	no	moderate-heavy (4 to >6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	no	Rosendahl 1977
6499	12	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures	no	115 x 25		640	15	30	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6500	3+	mounds, terraces	no	40+ x 18		680	15	30	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6501	9	mounds, terraces	no	63 x 25		440	15	150	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6502	1	mound	no	1 x 1.3		400	16	180	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6503	2	terraces	no	12 x 7		800	16	90	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6504	5	terraces, enclosure, c-shape, u-shape	no	115 x 80		680	15	10	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6505	39	mounds, terraces, enclosures, platforms, walls, u-shapes	no	240 x 360		440	11	130	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6506	3	walled terrace	no	8 x 8		320	16	185	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6507	1	wall	no	4 x 1		200	16	170	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6508	2	mound, terrace	no	30 x 10		400	10	300	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6509	2	enclosure, wall	no	6 x 5		330	10	360	2	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6510	2	mound, enclosure	no	75 x 30		420	11	50	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6511	4	mounds, terrace	no	16 x 8		200	11	290	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6512	3	terraces	no	11 x 7		240	11	250	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6513	13	mounds, terraces, enclosures, walls	no	150 x 70		260	11	120	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005

\* Stream crossings would require UXO clearance after every major rain event

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**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
6514	1	enclosure	no	3.5 x 2.5		360	11	85	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6525	1	enclosure	no	11 x 7		400	11	25	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6526	3	enclosures	no	18 x 9		360	11	50	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6527	1	c-shape	no	3.5 x 1.8		80	3	55	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6528	3	mounds	no	10 x 3		80	0	240	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6593	4	terraces, petroglyph	yes	45 x 20		400	16	185	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6594	1	mound	no	6.6 x 3.6		480	16	340	2	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6595	6	terraces, upright	no	50 x 20		600	19	430	2	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6596	12	mound, terraces, walls, petroglyphs	yes	52 x 45		400	16	40	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6597	21+	mounds, terraces, enclosures, walls, C-shape, petroglyph	yes	280 x 60		600	19	30	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6598	6	mounds, terraces, walls, C-shape, L-shape	no	138 x 25		480	19	275	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6599	1	C-shape	no	3.2 x 2.5		440	13	200	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6600	15	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures	no	270 x 35		800	16	80	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6601	1	enclosure	no	2.5 x 1.8		440	13	155	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6602	28	mounds, terraces, enclosures, walls, modified outcrop	no	311 x 20		640	11	240	2	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6603	21	mounds, terraces, enclosures, petroglyphs	yes	156 x 34		720	16	280	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005

\* Stream crossings would require UXO clearance after every major rain event

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**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
6604	1	terrace	no	8.5 x 4		800	31	400	2	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6605	10+	mounds, walls	no	70 x 30		720	16	350	2	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6606	94+	mounds, terraces, enclosures, U-shapes	no	325 x 350		760	13	<10	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6607	33	mounds, terraces, walls, enclosures	no	520 x 80		440	13	<10	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6608	1	enclosure	no	1.2 x 1.3		1040	25	500	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6609	1	wall	no	40 x 3		1000	35	400	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6610	3	terraces, wall	no	47 x 40		920	31	340	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) kukui/java plum/guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6611	3	mounds, enclosures	no	21 x 8		360	10	90	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Robins et al. 2005
6612	7	mounds, terraces, walls, alignment	no	66 x 30		280	11	90	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6613	6	terraces, petroglyph, grinding stone	yes	100 x 60		260	10	160	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6614	1	terrace	no	2 x 3.6		360	16	210	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6615	19	mounds, terraces, walls	no	107 x 28		360	11	165	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	partially within the ICM area	Robins et al. 2005
6616	12	terraces, enclosures, walls, petroglyphs	yes	94 x 80		400	10	60	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Robins et al. 2005
6617	2	terrace, c-shape	no	11 x 9		120	3	<10	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6618	6	mounds, terrace, enclosure, L-shape	no	49 x 15		140	3	30	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005

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**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
6619	3	walls	no	90 x 20		160	3	120	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6620	7	mounds, walls	no	187 x 88		260	8	115	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6621	9	mounds, walls, enclosures, C-shapes, petroglyph	yes	165 x 56		200	11	250	2	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6622	1	mound	no	4 x 4		200	5	200	2	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6623	6	terraces, enclosure, alignment	no	30 x 30		165	4	100	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6624	4	mounds	no	21 x 3		320	22	50	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6625	2	terraces	no	30 x 9		320	11	120	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6626	6	mounds	no	10 x 15		360	13	170	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	within the ICM area	Robins et al. 2005
6627	1	concrete basin gun emplacement	no	23 x 20		120	10	9	0	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6628	9	terraces, enclosure, ramp	no	23 x 20		640	18	200	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6629	4	mound, terraces	no	40 x 15		740	18	275	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6630	3	mound, terrace, enclosure	no	5 x 5		660	18	125	1	no	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
6631	1	wall	no	42 x 1		1160	19	440	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	Robins et al. 2005
DPW32	1	terrace	no	10 x 10		120	15	60	0	no	moderate (>4 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	yes	DPW 2005
DPW33	2	enclosure, alignment	no	30 x 8		80	10	<5	0	no	moderate (>4 feet high) guinea grass/koa hoale	yes	DPW 2005

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**Site List and Terrain Analysis for the Identification Of Public Access Priorities  
Makua Military Reservation**

Site ID: 50-80-03-xxxx	Number of Features	Site Description (feature types)	Petroglyphs? (y/n)	Site Size (meters)		Elevation at Site (feet)	Slope at Site (degrees)	Distance from Road to Site (meters)	*Number of Drainage Crossings (pedestrian access from road to site)	*Is a Gulch or Drainage Crossing Located Within the Site Area? (y/n)	Vegetation Description at Site	**UXO Clearance Required? (y/n/partial/within the ICM area)	Source
Unrecorded site identified during 2006 DPW-ENV subsurface survey	3+	mounds, terraces	no	n/a		280	10	250	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	DPW 2007
Unrecorded site identified during 2006 DPW-ENV subsurface survey	n/a	mounds, terraces	no	n/a		200	4	270	1	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	DPW 2007
Unrecorded site identified during 2006 DPW-ENV subsurface survey	n/a	kiawe fence posts, wire fencing	no	150+ x 1		320	12	235	0	yes	heavy (>6 feet high) guinea grass/koa haole	yes	DPW 2007

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# Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

Aloha Col. Daniel Misigoy and Ms. Amy Bugula:

Kindly, please find attached, the scoping comments for the EIS on the lease retention of the Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation Leases on State of Hawai‘i land expiring on August 16, 2029. These comments are submitted within the 40-day public comment period ending on September 1, 2021.

Mahalo nui loa, Melodie R. Aduja Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i



**From:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox PAO](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#); [USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations](#)  
**Subject:** RE: KTA, PTA, and MMR EIS Scoping Comments of the ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS of the DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 9:35:21 AM

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Aloha Melodie,

Thank you for your comments.

--Stephanie

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Public Affairs Office  
U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii  
[usarmy.hawaii.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.pao@mail.mil)

Check us out online at:  
<https://home.army.mil/hawaii>  
Social Media: @usaghawaii

Have you downloaded the Digital Garrison app yet? Visit  
<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/digital-garrison> for more info.

How am I doing? Comments welcome at  
<https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=107939>.

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**From:** Melodie Aduja [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 9:36 PM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Melodie Aduja [REDACTED]; Alan Burdick [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] KTA, PTA, and MMR EIS Scoping Comments of the ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS of the DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

Aloha Col. Daniel Misigoy and Ms. Amy Bugula:

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Mahalo nui loa,  
Melodie R. Aduja  
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawai`i

**From:** [Melodie Aduja](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#); [USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations](#)  
**Cc:** [Melodie Aduja](#); [Alan Burdick](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] KTA, PTA, and MMR EIS Scoping Comments of the ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS of the DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI`I  
**Date:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 21:36:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [O`ahu Military Lease Retention EIS Scoping Comments 8-29-2021 .pdf](#)

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Aloha Col. Daniel Misigoy and Ms. Amy Bugula:

Kindly, please find attached, the scoping comments for the EIS on the lease retention of the Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation Leases on State of Hawai`i land expiring on August 16, 2029. These comments are submitted within the 40-day public comment period ending on September 1, 2021.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Melodie R. Aduja  
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawai`i



## Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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via EIS website: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/oahueis/project-home> (inoperable with error message on August 28-29, 2021); <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OAHUEIS> (inoperable with error message on August 28-29, 2021); and [bit.ly/armyoahu](http://bit.ly/armyoahu) (inoperable on August 29, 2021).

Email: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil), and [usarmy.hawaii.comrel@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.comrel@mail.mil)

August 29, 2021

Colonel Daniel Misigoy  
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawai'i

Ms. Amy Bugala  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-Hawaii)  
Public Affairs Officer

**Scoping Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training  
Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area,  
and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i**

Aloha Col. Misigoy and Ms. Bugala:

Thank you very much for the opportunity for the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") to provide comments relating to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i, pursuant to the EIS Preparation Notice, dated August 6, 2021.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has an enrolled membership of 115,970 active and associate members in the State of Hawai'i with 63,280 members residing in the City and County of Honolulu. The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party is a semi-autonomous organization with over 5,355 DPH active and associate members. We advocate to advance the Party's environmental Platform planks and Resolutions, including those adopted by DPH members at the Democratic State Convention in 2018 that are noted *infra*.

Preliminarily, the Environmental Caucus rejects the process involved in developing a draft EIS for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i for the Department of Army (Army). Given that the Army has retained itself to process the draft EIS, we find that to be a blatant conflict-of-interest, and we, therefore, urge the Army to retain an independent disinterested third-

party to conduct this draft EIS to assure a fair and just result, free from bias and self-interest in the resulting EIS, compiled in the best of interests of all stakeholders and not just in the best interests of the Army. Currently, all inquiries are to be directed to Ms. Amy Bugala, USAG-HI Public Affairs Officer, at [usarmy.hawaii.comrel@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.comrel@mail.mil), and the Notice for Scoping Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O`ahu, Hawai`i was issued by James W. Satterwhite, Jr., Army Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Army (DOA). Having the DOA process an EIS concerning the DOA is clearly a conflict of interest and should not be allowed under any circumstances. This foreseeable and inevitable conflict is clearly unreasonable and unjustifiable without any grounds to allow such conflict to stand without challenge. The Environmental Caucus demands that this conflict of interest be eliminated and resolved by replacing the DOA immediately with a disinterested third-party to complete the draft EIS.

USAG-HI is the home to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division whose mission is to deploy to conduct decisive actions in support of united land operations. The Division conducts persistent engagement with regional partners to shape the environment and prevent conflict across the Pacific operational environment. This unit conducts theater-wide deployment to perform combat operations in support of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is based out of Schofield Barracks on O`ahu and trains at various training areas including the Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Poamoho Training Area (PTA), and the Makua Military Reservation (MMR). These training areas are used by Army units and other users including the Marine Corps and Hawaii Army National Guard. These three areas on O`ahu are but one-third of the 18,060 federal and state lands used for military training on the island.

Approximately 1,170 acres of State-owned land at KTA have been used for military training since the mid-1950s. Current training includes high-density company-level helicopter training in a tactical environment, large-scale ground maneuver training, and air support training.

Approximately 4,370 acres of State-owned land at PTA have been used for military training since 1964. It provides airspace with ravines and deep vegetation for realistic helicopter training.

Approximately 760 acres of State-owned land at MMR have been used for military training for nearly 100 years. Tactical training began in 1941 after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Current training includes maneuver training, the establishment and use of restricted airspace for unmanned aerial vehicle training, and wildfire suppression and security activities. Live-fire training ceased in 2004 after numerous community lawsuits were filed; however, clean-up and restoration remain to be completed.

Fundamentally, the Environmental Caucus of the DPH objects to the retention of the 65-year military leases for, *inter alia*, the unconscionable consideration of \$1.00 USD which began in 1964 and will expire on August 16, 2029. The Environmental Caucus advocates for the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. The basis for this opposition rests on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Historically, the military's actions have not demonstrated any real great concern for the local communities, their culture, and their history. As it stands, the military has plenty of land available even without the 6,300 acres of state land on O`ahu subject to retention.

Pohakuloa Training Area is the largest contiguous live-fire range and maneuver training area in Hawaiʻi, covering nearly 36 square miles on Hawaiʻi Island. It is also subject to State lease renewal on August 16, 2029. The EIS process for Pohakuloa Training Area started earlier, on September 23, 2020.

The military has 17,725 acres (72 km<sup>2</sup>) on Central Oʻahu at Schofield Barracks; the Marine Corps Base Hawaiʻi at Kaneohe, occupies 2,951 acres (11.94 km<sup>2</sup>), which is the entire Mokapu Peninsula; and the Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam consisting of 2,850 acres of land and facilities valued at more than \$444 million, all of which could be used as alternative maneuvering and training sites should the three State lease retention requests be rejected. For these reasons, the “no action alternative” regarding the retention of these three State leases will not adversely affect the Army’s current operations, because alternative training locations are viable and available. The question should be, is the retention of these State leases absolutely necessary for military exercises? The answer to this question resounds in the negative especially in light of the environmental degradation of the lands, the endangerment of plant and animal species, and the destruction of historical, traditional, and cultural properties.

While the Environmental Caucus reserved oral testimony for this writing during the August 10, 2021 and August 11, 2021, webinar Public Meetings held in lieu of in-person public scoping meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Environmental Caucus observed that nearly 100% of the oral testimony received was in opposition to the State lease retention, thus seeking the no action alternative, which would allow these Military leases to expire according to their written terms.

The reasons for this opposition are multiple: First, the U.S. Military has historically and systematically abused and degraded the environment and has not been environmentally sound in its clean-up and restoration in the State of Hawaiʻi and nationwide; Second, the proposed renewal at these three locations would continue to be environmentally destructive and entirely out of proportion to what minimal benefit it might provide to the host native Hawaiian people, its traditions and culture, and all residents of the State of Hawaiʻi in general.

As to the first reason: There are more than 40,000 hazardous sites across the country polluted by U.S. military operations, affecting a total amount of land larger than the entire State of Florida. Many of these sites have extensive groundwater and soil pollution, or present a risk of exploding bombs and munitions, even if they are open to the public. Some have been converted to parks and wildlife reserves and even housing developments. Many sites were part of old defense facilities that have long since shut down, and may not be known locally, even though a risk of exposure to contaminants may still be present. Even sites where the DOD says it has already completed its response, an ongoing threat or risk to the public may remain. While the data pinpoint a precise location, contamination from that location may well affect a much larger area, including public and private lands and the water supplies beneath them. <https://www.propublica.org/article/reporting-recipe-bombs-in-your-backyard>.

Given the U.S. Military’s use of hazardous substances, explosives and ordnance necessitating numerous cleanups leaving the land with restricted or no access available, it appears that the purpose of NEPA and HEPA cannot be accomplished by the retention of the three State Leases and the allowance of the Army to continue its maneuvering and training thereon as it did for the last 58 years.

There are 115 Military installations with hazardous sites in the State of Hawai'i with an estimated total past and future cleanup cost of \$2.77 Billion and of the 115 Military installations, 43 are determined by the DOD to be HIGH and MEDIUM hazardous risk Installations. *See* chart below:

<b><u>MILITARY INSTALLATION</u></b>	<b><u>#HAZ. SITES</u></b>	<b><u>CITY</u></b>	<b><u>COUNTY</u></b>	<b><u>RISK OF HARM</u></b>
PEARL HARBOR NAVAL STATION	145	PEARL HARBOR	Honolulu	High Risk
LUALUALEI NAVAL MAGAZINE	40	WAI'ANAE	Honolulu	High Risk
WAHIAWA NCTAMS EASTPAC	30	WAHIAWĀ	Honolulu	High Risk
PEARL HARBOR NSY	27	PEARL HARBOR	Honolulu	High Risk
PŌHAKULOA TRAINING AREA	25	KAWAIHAE HARBOR	Hawaii	High Risk
WAIKOLOA MANEUVER AREA	25	WAIKOLOA	Hawaii	High Risk
PEARL HARBOR FISC	17	PEARL HARBOR	Honolulu	High Risk
NAVFAC HAWAII PEARL HARBOR	17	PEARL HARBOR	Honolulu	High Risk
WAIKAKALAUAA AMMO STORAGE	7	MILILANI	Honolulu	High Risk
WAIKANE TRAINING AREA	3	WAIKĀNE	Honolulu	High Risk
'AIEA MILITARY RESERVATION	2	'AIEA	Honolulu	High Risk
MAUI BOMBING TARGETS	2	MAUI	Maui	High Risk
HE'EIA COMBAT TRAINING CAMP	2	KAHALU'U	Honolulu	High Risk
MAKANALUA BOMBING RANGE	1	MOLOKA'I	Kalawao	High Risk
RABBIT ISLAND	1	WAIMANALO BAY	Honolulu	High Risk
PACIFIC JUNGLE COMBAT	1	PUNALU'U/KAHANA	Honolulu	High Risk
PAKINI BOMBING RANGE	1	KA'U	Hawaii	High Risk
KAHUKU TRAINING CAMP	1	KAHUKU	Honolulu	High Risk
FORT SHAFTER	54	HONOLULU	Honolulu	Medium Risk
KANEOHE BAY MCB	33	KĀNE'OHE BAY	Honolulu	Medium Risk
WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD	31	HONOLULU	Honolulu	Medium Risk
BELLOWS AIR FORCE STATION	28	BELLOWS AFS	Honolulu	Medium Risk
MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION	10	O'AHU	Honolulu	Medium Risk
PEARL HARBOR NSB	7	PEARL HARBOR	Honolulu	Medium Risk
JFHQ HI ARNG	4	HONOLULU	Honolulu	Medium Risk

<b>BIG ISLAND BOMBING TARGETS</b>	3	ISLAND OF HAWAI'I	Hawai'i	Medium Risk
<b>PALMYRA ISLAND</b>	2	PALMYRA	So. Pacific	Medium Risk
<b>MAKAPU'U LIGHT HOUSE RES</b>	2	MAKAPU'U	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>ARMY IMPACT RANGE</b>	2	HILO	Hawai'i	Medium Risk
<b>WAIMEA TRAINING SITE</b>	1	WAIMEA	Kaua'i	Medium Risk
<b>WAILUA ARTILLERY IMPACT AREA</b>	1	WAILUA	Kaua'i	Medium Risk
<b>O'AHU ISLAND TARGET</b>	1	MOKUAUIA	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>AHUKINI</b>	1	OFFSHORE AHUKINI	Kaua'i	Medium Risk
<b>WAIMEA FALLS PARK</b>	1	HALE'IWA	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>GROVE FARM ARTY IMP</b>	1	LIHUE	Kaua'i	Medium Risk
<b>MOKU HO'ONIKI ISLAND</b>	1	MOLOKA'I	Maui	Medium Risk
<b>RANGE D-400-L</b>	1	WAHIAWA	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>PAPOHAKU RANCLAND SUB</b>	1	MOLOKA'I ISLAND	Maui	Medium Risk
<b>UNEXPLODED ORD REMOVAL</b>	1	MOLOKINI ISLAND	Maui	Medium Risk
<b>CENTER COMBAT RANGE</b>	1	WAHIAWĀ	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>KANE PU'U NAVAL BOMBING RANGE</b>	1	LANAI	Maui	Medium Risk
<b>KA'U BOMBING RANGE</b>	1	VOLCANO	Hawai'i	Medium Risk
<b>WAIAWA TRAINING AREA</b>	1	WAIAWA	Honolulu	Medium Risk

<https://projects.propublica.org/bombs/installation/HI9214522234002100#b=15.512459942662547,174.06437,31.555618072891495,-147.263755&c=shrink>

The point of providing this listing is to demonstrate the absolutely deplorable record held by the U.S. military in exercising its stewardship responsibilities as a lessee and as titleholder of lands in the State of Hawai'i.

Given the multitude of Military Installations throughout the State of Hawai'i that remain at high and medium risk of injury and contamination, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i remains steadfast in its opposition to the proposed State lease retentions pursuant to NEPA, HEPA, Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution; the Precautionary Principle; and Ching v. Case, 145 Hawai'i 148, 449 P.3d 1146 (2019).

The Hawai'i State Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, states:

For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals, and energy sources, and shall



promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.

The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has declared that Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution provides that the Public Trust Doctrine (“PTD”) is a fundamental element of Constitutional Law in the State of Hawai‘i.

The Federal Government in its activities is required to conform to the laws under the Hawai‘i State Constitution. Specifically, under Article XI, Section 1, of the Hawai‘i State Constitution, the State has an obligation to protect, control, and regulate the use of Hawai‘i’s water resources for the benefit of its people. The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has declared that this Constitutional provision created a duty for the State to protect public trust purposes. The Public Trust Doctrine, therefore, seeks to protect the following Public Trust purposes:

1. Domestic water use of the general public, particularly drinking water,
2. The exercise of Native Hawaiian and traditional and customary rights including appurtenant rights,
3. Reservations of water for Hawaiian Home Land allotments, and
4. Maintenance of waters in their natural state. (Water Resource Protection Plan (2008), Commission on Water Resource Management)

Both the Hawai‘i Supreme Court and the Commission on Water Resource Management have declared that the Public Trust Doctrine applies with equal force to groundwater as it does to surface water.

The Precautionary Principle is a duty under the PTD. The PTD is a preventive doctrine, not a remedial one, as the Hawai‘i Supreme Court recognized when it found that the Precautionary Principle was an inherent attribute of the PTD. In endorsing the Precautionary Principle, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court rejected the requirement of scientific certainty before acting to protect Public Trust Purposes, noting that to do so will often allow for only reactive, not preventive regulation.

In 2018, the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, out of concern and an abundance of caution over military degradation, devastation, and desecration of the State’s Public Trust lands, affecting hundreds of thousands of *Kanaka Maoli*, residents, businesses, and visitors to the State of Hawai‘i, adopted the following Resolution:

GOV:2018-18 Urging the Congressional Delegation to Actively Work to Ensure that the Military Protects Our Natural Resources

Whereas, Damaging the land and impairing natural resources is inconsistent with protecting the homeland; and

Whereas, Military activities have contaminated our groundwater at Red Hill, littered the landscape of Pōhakuloa with unexploded ordnance, adversely affected archaeological sites and habitat at Mākua, and rendered substantial portions of Kaho‘olawe unsafe; and

Whereas, The military once claimed that it was a matter of national security that it be allowed to continue to bomb Kaho‘olawe and continue to train at Mākua, but that has proven to be inaccurate; and

Whereas, A state judge questioned the Army’s veracity and reliability when it claimed to regularly clean up debris after each training exercise at Pōhakuloa; and

Whereas, Although the Navy argues that its fuel has not found its way into our drinking water wells, yet it is undisputed that leaks from some of its Red Hill tanks have contaminated our groundwater in an unacceptable manner; now, therefore, be it Resolved,

That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urge all members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to actively work to ensure that the military takes all necessary action to prevent degradation of our natural resources and clean up the existing contamination; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation.

[End quote]

As to the second reason, the No Action Alternative is preferred as neither (1) Full Retention, (2) Modified Retention, nor (3) Minimum Retention and Access of the expiring military KTA, PTA, and MMR State Leases would comply with the **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969** (“NEPA”), 42 U.S.C. § 4321. The purpose of NEPA is to declare a national policy that will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

Clearly, there are serious environmental, social, and cultural concerns associated with the KTA, PTA, and MMR State Lease Retentions, even if modified retention or minimum retention and access. The circumstances surrounding the State lease retentions coupled with the existing frustration of Hawai‘i residents over current military unsatisfactory stewardship of the Pohakuloa Training Area and other areas described, *supra*; current endangerment of O‘ahu’s Moanalua-Waimalu groundwater aquifer below the Red Hill fuel storage tanks which supplies potable water to Moanalua through Honolulu to Hawai‘i Kai, and the numerous Pearl Harbor superfund sites that evidences the military-caused environmental degradation, give the local community ample grounds to object the full, modified, and minimum retention and access to KTA, PTA, and MMR.

These military-related use of KTA, PTA, and MMR (a) fail to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and the environment as the environment suffers irreparable harm; (b) as to MMR, fail to promote efforts that prevents or eliminates damage to the environment and biosphere as the target areas remain littered with spent munitions and fragments and unexploded ordnance, contaminated with depleted uranium which fail to stimulate the health and welfare of man; and (c) fail to enrich the understanding of the rare ecological systems and natural resources and wildlife important to our Nation as required under NEPA and HEPA.

Pursuant to the EIS Preparation Notice, dated August 6, 2021, the proposed EIS must evaluate the following 14 affected environmental subject areas: (1) land use, (2) air quality, (3) hazardous materials and waste management, (4) geology and soils, (5) water resources, (6) socioeconomics, (7) biological resources, (8) noise and vibration, (9) transportation, (10) cultural resources, (11) infrastructure (utilities), (12) Airspace management, (13) Health and Safety, and (14) Electromagnetic Spectrum.

### **Environmental Issue No. 1 – Effect on Land Use:**

KTA is located on the northern extent of Oahu, beginning in the lowlands across Kamehameha Highway from the shrimp farms and agricultural fields to the summit of the Ko‘olau Mountains. The Army uses KTA for pyrotechnic training, foot maneuver training, urban combat training and helicopter training. The terrain consists of rolling hills dissected by broad drainages in lower elevations, and relatively steep and windswept ridges in upper elevations.

Habitat within KTA is highly disturbed with some small, predominantly native forest patches in the mid elevation mesic forest leading up to mostly native stretches of summit and wet forest. Within the mid elevation mesic forest are the populations of endangered *Eugenia koolauensis*, Hawaiian name with diacritics: Nīoi. Nīoi is formerly found in dry gulches and slopes from 325 to about 985 feet in the north and south areas of the Ko‘olau Mountains, O‘ahu, and Mauna Loa, Moloka‘i. Now presumed extinct on Moloka‘i. Currently extremely rare and now found in the northern Ko‘olau Mountains on the north fork of the Kamananui Stream, Waimea Valley and from Pūpūkea-Paumalū, O‘ahu. In native Hawaiian history, the Nīoi wood was believed to be poisonous and was carved into images called kālaipāhoa, literally poison gods or goddesses. The tree is said to grow only at Maunaloa, Moloka‘i where this species once grew, but now extinct there. These images were always in possessions of the ruling chiefs. Shavings from the back of the images were placed in an enemies’ food to cause death. It was only when sorcery was employed were they said to be poisonous. Today, we know these trees to be harmless.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired this land as an addition to the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Refuge is one of the premier recovery areas on O‘ahu for four species of endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and supports a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebird species and other native wildlife. The Refuge includes lowland coastal areas that features wetlands, beach coastal dunes, and strand habitats that the Service is protecting and managing as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. An interdisciplinary team composed of refuge managers and biologists, public use specialists, planners, wetland and endangered species recovery biologists developed a range of land protection alternatives. The Estate leases most of the Kahuku coastal area to tenants who use the lands for commercial aquaculture, commercial fruit and vegetable farms, and horse and cattle grazing.

The Kahuku coastal plain features are some of the best undeveloped coastal lowland wetlands, dunes, and coastal strand habitat on O‘ahu. The land is managed as a high-quality wildlife habitat with some areas serving as management buffer areas. This area includes lands between the Refuge units, the large aquaculture facilities adjacent to Kamehameha Highway, and a portion of wetland, dunes, and coastal strand habitat seaward from the Ki‘i Unit. This area features high quality wildlife habitats that have importance for endangered species and migratory bird habitat, coastal plant and animal habitats, and some management buffer areas.

The retention of KTA would continue to cause a threat to the conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge and a disproportionate threat to the habitats of endangered species, migratory bird habitats, coastal plant and animal habitats.

However, unlike MMR, KTA and PTA were not used for live-fire maneuvering and training; therefore, the return of KTA and PTA back to the State upon expiration of these State Leases would be fairly simple as cleanup of military debris from live-fire training and unexploded ordnances and munitions is not at issue.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects caused by its use of these state lands and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites?

### **Environmental Issue No. 2 - Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas:**

Between 2015 and 2017, US forces were active in 76 countries. Of these seven were on the receiving end of air or drone strikes and 15 had “boots on the ground”. There were 44 overseas military bases, and 56 countries were receiving training in counter-terrorism. In 2017, all this added up to fuel purchases of 269,230 barrels of oil a day and the release of 25,000 kilotons of [carbon dioxide equivalent](#) into the atmosphere.

#### **‘Military’s vast furnace’**

“Each of these missions requires energy – often considerable amounts of it,” the scientists say. The impacts of climate change are likely to continue in ways that are more intense, prolonged and widespread, which would give cover to even more extensive US military operations. The only way to cool what they call the “military’s vast furnace” is to turn it off. [US military is huge greenhouse gas emitter | Climate News Network %](#) One way to turn it off is to reduce its carbon footprint by allowing the KTA, PTA, and MMR State Leases to terminate accordingly on August 16, 2029; this would be a way to turn it off and not turn it back on again.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all greenhouse gas emissions caused by its helicopter maneuvering and training use of these state lands and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites? What, if any, renewable energy can be available to eliminate the use of fossil fuels during the Army’s helicopter and other aviation training exercises?

### **Environmental Issue No. 3 – Effect on Hazardous Materials and Waste Management:**

Military contamination hazards include unexploded ordnance, various types of fuels and petroleum products; organic solvents such as perchloroethylene and trichloroethylene; dioxins and PCB; explosives and propellants such as RDX, TNT, HMX and perchlorate; heavy metals such as lead and mercury; napalm, chemical weapons, and radioactive waste from nuclear powered ships. Cobalt 60, a radioactive waste product from nuclear-powered ships, has been found in sediment at Pearl Harbor. Between 1964 and 1978, 4,843,000 gallons of low-level radioactive waste were discharged into Pearl Harbor. 2,189 steel drums containing radioactive waste were dumped in an ocean disposal area 55 miles from Hawai`i.

KTA, PTA, and MMR have delicate ecosystems that already struggle to properly manage waste. Surrounding communities should not be burdened with any additional magnitude of hazardous waste production and disposal.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all hazardous waste production and disposal caused by its use of these state lands and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites?

#### **Environmental Issue No. 4 – Effect on Geology and Soils:**

The mechanical breakup of rocks and the chemical weathering of minerals contribute to soil formation. The downward percolation of water brings dissolved ions and also facilitates chemical reactions. Soil forms most readily under temperate to tropical conditions, and moderate precipitation. The retention of the KTA, PTA, and MMR State Lease would allow the Army to continue to destroy the geology and soil at these sites just as any military causes substantial changes to the geology and soils; however, in this case, the adverse effect would be substantial to the diminishing habitats of the area's endangered species mentioned herein.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases were retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects to the geology and soils caused by its use of these state lands and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites and restore these sites?

#### **Environmental Issue No. 5 - Effect on Water Resources:**

As mentioned *supra*, the Kahuku coastal plain features some of the best undeveloped coastal lowland wetlands, dunes, and coastal strand habitat on O'ahu. The surrounding land is a high quality wildlife habitat with some areas serving as National Wildlife Refuge management buffer areas. This area includes lands between the Refuge units, the large aquaculture facilities adjacent to Kamehameha Highway, and a portion of wetland, dunes, and coastal strand habitat seaward from the Ki'i Unit. This area features high quality wildlife habitats that have importance for endangered species and migratory bird habitat, coastal plant and animal habitats, and some management buffer areas. The goal of the National Wildlife Refuge is to assist with endangered water bird recovery as well as protect habitats for other migratory and resident wildlife.

In addition, there are two watersheds in the area, and there are concerns about contamination to the drinking water in both watershed.

The retention of the KTA, PTA, and MMR State Leases would continue to cause a threat of risk of harm and damage to the habitats of endangered plant and animal species and would continue to create further risks of contamination to surrounding watersheds.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects to the area water resources caused by its use of these state lands and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently causing water resource contamination on these sites?

## **Environmental Issue No. 6 - Socioeconomics:**

Socioeconomics status is the social standing or class of an individual or group. Social and economic factors, such as income, education employment, community safety and social supports can significantly affect how well and how long we live, these factors also affect our ability to make healthy choices, afford medical care and housing, manage stress, and more. Lower class or working class refers to those who have to work in order to survive. The Kahuku, Waianae, and Waipahu communities are composed of mainly working-class people. The retention of the KTA, PTA, and MMR State lease in these community's backyard will not improve the socioeconomic condition of these communities, but rather it will reduce their socioeconomic conditions, as they will be retaining these military exercises in the "backyard" of communities that do not welcome them.

The U.S. military's current strategic posture in the Pacific is intended to provoke China. It poses the risk of World War III and the extinction of the human species. Home to the Indo-Pacific Command, Hawai'i serves as the control center for U.S. military domination of over half the planet. As such, when Hawai'i was not actually part of the U.S., but rather a territory, Japanese imperial forces attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. On January 13, 2018, an alert was issued to every cell phone in Hawai'i that a ballistic missile was inbound, causing residents to scramble and some to continue to experience post-traumatic stress. That such an attack was even plausible demonstrates that the military presence does not make Hawai'i safer, rather it made Hawai'i a target.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse socioeconomic effects caused by its use of these state lands and what will the Army do to improve the socioeconomic status of these communities that are adversely impacted by further military training in their backyard?

## **Environmental Issue No. 7 - Biological Resources:**

A biological resource is a substance or object in the environment required by an organism for normal growth, maintenance, and reproduction. For plants key resources are light, nutrients, water, and a place to grow. For animals, key resources are food, water, and territory. The Army said in 2020 that it annually spends more than \$12 million in Hawaii on environmental programs. Its natural resources program helped save three native plant species from extinction : the haha, Hawaiian mint and tree aster. However, this amount is of no consequence considering the extensive military debris cleanup that needs to be done to return the lands back to its original fertile ecosystem, if this is even possible. The saving of three endangered plant species from extinction is commendable; however, there are many, many more endangered plant and animal species that remain at risk. These endangered plant and animal species must be given top priority as many of them cannot be found elsewhere in the world. The retention of the State-Military leases will continued adverse impacts on the biological resources for area endangered plants and wildlife as their existing biological resources will be diminished and destroyed with continued military maneuvering and training. The greatest threat to these endangered species is the loss of habitat of which continue military use will add to the risk of plant and wildlife extinction by the elimination of their habitat.

There are several rare taxa at KTA. We believe that the siting of the radar installation at this location would unreasonably place these species in existential jeopardy. They are (1) *Bobea timonioides*, a species of concern; (2) *Nesoluma polynesianum*, a species of concern; (3) *Pteralyxia macrocarpa*, a candidate for endangered; (4) *Tetraplasandra gymnocarpa*, endangered; and (5) *Lasiurus cinereus*

*semotus*, endangered.

(1) **‘Ahakea** (*Bobea timonioides*) is a species of flowering tree in the coffee family, *Rubiaceae*, that is endemic to Hawai‘i. It inhabits dry, coastal mesic and mixed mesic forests at elevations of 250–580 meters (820–1,900 ft). It is threatened by habitat loss.

(2) *Nesoluma polynesianum*, the **keahi** or **island nesoluma**, is a species of flowering plant in the family *Sapotaceae*. This plant is found in the Cook (New Zealand), Tubuai (French Polynesia), and Hawaiian Islands (United States). It is threatened by habitat loss.

(3) *Pteralyxia laurifolia*, the **ridged pteralyxia**, is a species of plant in the family *Apocynaceae*. It is endemic to the Island of Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands. The species is listed as vulnerable, threatened by habitat loss.

(4) *Polyscias gymnocarpa*, commonly known as the **Ko‘olau Range ‘ohe** or **Ko‘olau tetraplasandra**, is a species of flowering plant in the family *Araliaceae*, that is endemic to the Hawaiian island of O‘ahu. It is threatened by habitat loss.

(5) The **Hawaiian hoary bat** (*Lasiurus semotus*, sometimes given as *Aeorestes semotus*), also known as **‘ōpe‘ōpe‘a**, is a species of bat endemic to the islands of Hawai‘i. The Hawaiian hoary bat is distributed only among the major volcanic islands of Hawai‘i, making it the only extant and native terrestrial mammal in the state. The Hawaiian hoary bat was officially named the state land mammal of Hawai‘i in 2015. It is a federally listed endangered taxon of the United States.

The Hawaiian hoary bat is brown in color with a silver coloration that ‘frosts’ the fur on its back, ears, and neck. It typically weighs between 14 to 18 g (0.49 to 0.63 ounces), and has a wingspan of about 10.5 to 13.5 inches, with females being larger than males. It is insectivorous, nocturnal, and forage and hunt using echolocation.

Hoary bats are a solitary subspecies and roost individually rather than in colonies. They are found throughout a large range of different habitats - forests, agricultural fields, and areas populated with humans. Due to their elusive and solitary nature, there is very limited knowledge on the ecology or life history of the bat. As of now, population sizes are unknown, which is problematic because this data is necessary for species recovery plans. Currently the Hawaiian hoary bat is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Regarding conservation, the Hawaiian hoary bat faces a number of possible threats including habitat loss, collisions with man-made structures such as wind turbines and barbed wire, impact of pesticides on primary food source, predation and competition with invasive species, and roost disturbance and tree cover reduction.

(6) **Hawaiian Monk Seals and Hawaiian waterbirds** are a critically endangered species with habitual movements. They tend to make specific beaches their home and return to them regularly, especially while giving birth and nursing. Kahuku point and the James Campbell National wildlife Refuge and sanctuary are popular habitats for the endangered monk seals and waterbirds which will be threatened by the deployment of the HDR-H at the KTA-1 site.

All four species of endangered Hawaiian waterbirds–Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian moorhen, and Hawaiian duck–nest and maintain populations on the Refuge and occur within the Kahuku coastal plain.

The Refuge and surrounding areas are premier spots for observing wintering migratory waterfowl and shorebirds that visit from September through May. Important migratory species on the Refuge that would benefit from protection and management of additional habitat include Shoveler, Northern pintail, Black-crowned night heron, Pacific golden plover, Semi-palmated plover, Ruddy turnstone, Sanderling, Wandering tattler, Lesser yellowlegs, and Bristle-thighed curlew. Ring-billed gull regularly visit the Refuge during winter months. The Asian Short-eared owl (also known as Hawaiian owl or pueo) is a Species of Concern and listed as endangered on O‘ahu by the State of Hawai‘i. Owls have been observed hunting over grassy areas and marshes on and adjacent to the Refuge.

In the recent past, green turtles nested in the area every other year for a total of three nesting seasons. Eggs were deposited in the sand just south of the Ki‘i outlet. Endangered Hawaiian monk seals are known to occur in offshore waters and would likely use the beach area if undisturbed. Protection of the area from predators would also foster colonization of the dune strand areas by Pacific migratory seabirds including Laysan albatross, Red-footed boobies, and ground nesting seabirds such as shearwaters and petrels. All of these endangered, candidates for endangered, and species of concern are under threat of habitat diminution as the result of the proposed siting of HDR-H at KTA-1.

### **Makua Military Reservation (MMR)**

There are numerous endangered plants species and animal species in the MMR. MMR encompasses two valleys, Kahanahaiki and Makua, which are the northern-most valleys in the Wai‘anae Mountains. Encompassing approximately 4,190 acres, MMR was once the largest maneuvering/live-fire training area on O‘ahu but based on continuous community outcry, protests, and demonstrations, live-fire training in this area ceased. Elevation within MMR ranges from sea level to just over 3,000 feet. While most of the natural habitats within MMR are highly disturbed there are large pockets of relatively intact dry and mesic forest. The terrain at MMR is extremely steep, exposed and rocky. There are five MUs and two ungulate control areas within MMR (See Figure B, Management Units Makua Military Reservation). There are a total of thirty-three endangered species in Makua, thirty of which are plants.

### **Kahanahaiki Management Unit**

Kahanahaiki MU is located on the northeast rim of Makua Valley. At its boundary to the East, is the State of Hawaii’s Pahole Natural Area Reserve. Kahanahaiki has an elevational range of 1,500 feet to 2,300 feet and an annual rainfall of 1,200 mm-3, 800 mm. Kahanahaiki MU is approximately 110 acres in size and is characterized as being a diverse mesic forest. Ridges and drainages that feed into the northern half of MMR (Kahanahaiki Valley) dissect the Kahanahaiki MU. A feral pig enclosure fence surrounds 90 acres of the Kahanahaiki MU. This fence was completed in December of 1996. Kahanahaiki contains twelve endangered plant species and two endangered animal species and is the site of the first endangered species outplanting on military lands in Hawaii. Because there is good road access and native resources are abundant, Kahanahaiki has been a focal point for volunteer projects.

### **‘Ohikilolo Management Unit**

‘Ohikilolo MU is located on ‘Ohikilolo Ridge, which is the southern boundary of Makua Valley. It encompasses approximately forty acres. The terrain is extremely steep and rocky and access to the upper portion of this management unit is by helicopter only. Large patches of ‘Ohikilolo Ridge lack vegetation and erosion by wind and rain is severe. A large population of goats once exacerbated this problem by consuming most of the vegetation on the ridge. With intensive goat control measures



and a perimeter fence installed, this MU is now very close to being ungulate free. 'Ohikilolo MU harbors a great deal of intact vertical cliff habitat and small patches of intact mesic forest. There is a goat-proof enclosure of approximately two and a half acres at the plateau where 'Ohikilolo ridge meets Kea'au ridge from the south. 'Ohikilolo contains thirteen endangered plant species and two endangered animal species. 'Ohikilolo is also home to the largest population of *Achatinella mustelina* known to the Natural Resource Staff (NRS).

### **Kaluakauila Management Unit**

Kaluakauila MU is approximately forty-five acres and is located in and around Kaluakauila drainage, just north of Makua Valley. The area around this drainage is referred to as Keawa`ula. This MU is made up primarily of dry forest on steep slopes and contains some intact native cliff habitat. Kaluakauila MU is very susceptible to fires because the habitat surrounding the intact native forest patches is comprised of introduced grasses and shrubs, which have very high fire potentials. There are a total of six endangered plants in Kaluakauila MU.

### **Lower Makua Management Unit**

The Lower Makua MU is located at the base of the cliffs on the southern side of Makua Valley. Portions of the lower valley contain extensive intact stands of dry forest that become intermixed with mesic forest as elevation increases. The Lower Makua MU ranges from 800 feet to 2,200 feet in elevation and encompasses an area of 270 acres. NRS believe that the stands of dry and mesic forest found in this MU are the most intact on O'ahu. The Lower Makua MU contains eight endangered plant species and two endangered animal species.

### **C-Ridge Management Unit**

The C-ridge MU is located on the north exposure of the large ridge, which separates Makua and Kahanahaiki Valleys. It is a small four-acre patch of native dry forest surrounded on the lower side by introduced grasslands and on the upper side by sheer cliffs between 800 and 1,200 feet. The hike to C-ridge is lengthy which limits the amount of time spent and number of trips made to the area. This MU used to be susceptible to fires from military live-fire training now ceased. There are a total of three endangered plant species known from this MU.

### **East Rim Ungulate Control Area**

The East Rim Ungulate Control Area is situated at the headwall of the southern side of Makua Valley, opposite Pahole Natural Area Reserve. It contains small native mesic forest patches but is dominated by non-native canopy and understory species. Christmas berry (*Schinus terebenthifolius*) dominates large portions of this area. The substrate character of this Ungulate Control Area varies from loose rocky soil to rocky cliff. This unit extends from 1,800 ft to 2,600 ft and is approximately one hundred acres in area. There are a total of three endangered plant species in the East Rim Ungulate Control Area.

### **Ko'iahi Ungulate Control Area**

Ko'iahi Ungulate Control Area is centered on Ko'iahi gulch, which is the southernmost subgulch of MMR. The southern boundary ridge of Makua, 'Ohikilolo, and a spur ridge off of 'Ohikilolo form Ko'iahi gulch. Alien scrubby vegetation and kukui (*Aleurites moluccana*) overstory dominate this area. The substrate character of Ko'iahi ranges from rocky talus to rocky cliff and gulch substrates. This area extends from 400 ft to 2,200 ft in elevation and is approximately two hundred and thirty acres in area. There are a total of eight endangered plant species in Ko'iahi Ungulate Control Area.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State leases are to be retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects to the area biological resources caused by its use of these state lands that impacts the habitats of endangered plant and animal species and what will the Army do to clean up any and all military debris currently on these sites that are already destroying these habitats?

#### **Environmental Issue No. 8 – Noise and Vibration:**

Sustained background noises or white-noise produced the Army helicopter and other aviation maneuver and training exercises impacts public health and safety. Environments with sustained background noise can have variable effects on learning cognitive abilities, and various noise-related physiological changes.

Epidemiological studies have addressed possible links between exposure to radio frequency (RF) and excess risk of cancer, decreased ability to perform mental tasks, reduced endurance, hearing effects of “buzzing”, “clicking”, “hissing”, and “popping” sounds depending on the RF pulsing characteristics. Radio frequency noise, both electromagnetic interference (EMI) and radio frequency interference (RFI) may affect residents in the surrounding communities. Radar can cause interference in medical devices like cardiac pacemakers and hearing aids and create other health emergency situations.

Given that KTA, PTA and MMR are subject to continued helicopter and aviation maneuvering and training that can cause surrounding adverse health and safety effects on humans and wildlife, it would be best not to retain these State Leases where there are risks of harm to the residents of the surrounding communities.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects from noise and vibrations caused by its use of helicopters and other aviation crafts within these state lands?

#### **Environmental Issue No. 9 – Transportation & Traffic:**

Transportation and traffic on the two-lane highways to KTA, PTA, and MMR have been slowed, creating a hazardous condition for the public for an unknown number of days when heavy military equipment have been transported, because it is the only roadway in the vicinity. Emergency response vehicles will be slowed, and this situation will compromise public safety.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse transportation and traffic effects in the area caused by its use of these state lands that impacts the ingress and egress on the two-lane highways to these sites which may compromise public safety among other inconveniences to the surrounding communities?

#### **Environmental Issue No. 10 – Effect on Cultural Resources:**

Cultural resources are the prehistoric and historic remains or indicators of past native Hawaiian activities including artifacts, sites, structures, buildings, landscapes such as rock inscription, and earthworks; and objects or collection of importance to the native Hawaiian culture or community for scientific, traditional, religious, and other reasons.

On August 10 and 11, 2021, the U.S. Army held public scoping hearings for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Training Land Retention. Among the several dozens of individuals that testified, there was unanimous agreement that the U.S. military must clean up their military debris and leave, calling for the No Action Alternative. Many Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) testified about the ongoing violence of the U.S. military desecrating the environment with unexploded ordnance and depleted uranium, demolishing cultural sites, and trampling on the iwi (bones) of their ancestors.

The Section 106 process requires the Army to consult with the Hawaiʻi State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and local residents regarding traditional and customary practices, cultural, historic and/or religious significance to themselves or their ohana.

KTA is located in the Koʻolauloa District. Koʻolauloa is the northeastern district of Oʻahu, from Waimea Bay on the North Shore to Kaʻaʻawa on the windward coast. (“Koʻolau” means “windward”; “loa” means “long”) The valleys from Laʻie to Kahana are well-watered and fertile. The most famous god of this land was Kamapuaʻa, “Pig-Child,” whose home was in the valley of Kaliuwaʻa (Sacred Falls) in Kaluanui. The gods Kāne and Kānaloa wandered through this district, creating springs and fishing. Fish are abundant; the coastline is also noted for its shark gods and shark men (mano kanaka).

The KTA is situated near a heʻiau. This Hawaiian altar is an ʻahupuaʻa demarcation between the ʻahupuaʻa land division boundaries of Hanakaʻoe to the west and Kahuku to the east. ʻAhupuaʻa – literally the altar (ʻahu) of the pig (puaʻa), is the name for both land division and the stone altar that serves as the marker of the division. The ʻahupuaʻa system of land management was a cornerstone of traditional Hawaiian life and helped Native Hawaiians to develop one of the most sustainable methods of land use in the world. Extending from the forested mountain tops mauka (inland) or the wao akua (region of the gods), through the kula (open plains used for farming) and extending out into the makai (ocean), each ʻahupuaʻa contained everything its inhabitants needed to sustain life which it did for the more than one thousand pre-colonization years before the late 1700s. The retention of the Military Leases would alter the cultural resources of prehistoric and historic remains or indicators of past native Hawaiian traditions, culture, and activities.

For the Kānaka Maoli, the use of the land, the seas, and the air by the U.S. military represent a military occupation and an encroachment of their sovereign rights to determine the future of Ka Pae ʻAina (as sovereignty activist Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell taught to call Hawaiʻi). Ka Pae ʻAina needs to reduce its dependence on the U.S. military and tourism. The people of Ka Pae ʻAina demand the return of the lands leased to the military to their natural state. The U.S. military must clean up its waste and unexploded ordnance from the leased lands.

Kānaka Maoli’s collective rights must be protected – the right to peace, the right to a healthy environment, the right to self-determination, and the right to human-oriented development. The people of Ka Pae ʻAina are for peace and multicultural, international understanding. They do not want any part of the escalation of military conflict between the competing imperial centers of the U.S. and China.

Ka Pae ʻAina must not be used by the U.S. war machine. Support must be afforded to the Native Hawaiians and their aspirations for peace and justice. Communities need to work together to heal,

protect, and nurture their ancestral lands after decades of war and destruction. Refusing to renew the leases of lands occupied by the U.S. military is a necessary and urgent step toward this goal.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects to the area cultural resources caused by its use of these state lands that impacts the tradition and culture of native Hawaiians and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites that are already destroying the culture and traditions of native Hawaiians?

**Environmental Issue No. 11 – Effect on Infrastructure (Utilities):**

The Army has declared that no new infrastructure would be necessary to support the continued operations and training exercises at KTA, PTA, and MMR.

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects caused by its infrastructure and use of these state lands currently on these sites as well as any future infrastructure that may subsequently be developed and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military infrastructure currently on these sites that are no longer needed?

**Environmental Issue No. 12 – Effect on Airspace:**

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse effects to the airspace at these sites and surrounding communities caused by its continued use of these sites for helicopter and other aviation maneuvering and training and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites caused by their helicopter and aviation maneuvering training?

**Environmental Issue No. 13 – Effect on Health and Safety:**

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse health and safety effects experienced at and from these sites to surrounding communities caused by the U.S. Army's continued use of these sites for helicopter and other aviation maneuvering and training and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites caused by its helicopter and aviation maneuvering and training?

**Environmental Issue No. 14 – Electromagnetic Spectrum:**

If the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases are retained, what will the U.S. Army do to alleviate, eliminate and avoid any and all adverse health and safety effects experienced at and from these sites and to surrounding communities caused by the U.S. Army's continued use of these sites for helicopter and other aviation maneuvering and training involving electromagnetic radiation and what will the Army do to cleanup any and all military debris currently on these sites caused by the effects of electromagnetic radiation, if any?

## **Conclusion**

We believe that a comprehensive and objective analysis of U.S. military activities at MMR, KTA, and PTA pursuant to these 14 enumerated factors will lead inexorably to the conclusion that the military needs to cease further maneuvering and training activities, engage in thorough clean-up of the sites, and return them to the people of Hawai'i not later than the original lease expiration date of August 16, 2029. It must also pay arrearages for the grossly insufficient lease rent.

The environmental damages from the continued military training use at MMR, KTA, and PTA are in many cases, substantial. We continue to oppose further retention of the MMR, KTA, and PTA by the U.S. Army as the risk of damage to the environment and ecosystem are great and the likelihood of substantial restoration efforts are low to the detriment of the Native Hawaiian community, the community at large, and endangered plant and animal species, many of which are indigenous of and endemic to Hawai'i.

The Environmental Caucus of the DPH objects to the retention of the MMR, KTA, and PTA State Leases after their expiration of August 16, 2029, and requests that the U.S. Army adhere to the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. The basis for this opposition rests on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HEPA, and Section 106.

The Environmental Caucus of the DPH further RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUPPLEMENT THIS DOCUMENT due to the fact that it has been denied access to the Army's relevant website during the critical time-frame for use in preparation of responses to the Army's Draft EIS, as we have noted in the introduction to this document.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments,

/s/ Melodie R. Aduja

Melodie R. Aduja

Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com)

/s/ Alan B. Burdick

Alan B. Burdick

Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: [burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:burdick808@gmail.com)

## Hamakua sacred arts. Fern acres non profit trust

This is the wonderful and incredible work we have done here in Polynesia and, specifically for all Hawaii.

I agree that the military need to meet all 4 requirements subsequently, and, without delay, meaning that, as a global currency continues to emerge, something stands out as off in this most current overhaul of finance/govt/high tech/

We need to keep considering that leaseholders should remain shareholders.

Keeping that at the forefront continues to stabilize global philanthropic models to continue to coalesce with the queen likeiokalani trusts and all subsequent beneficiaries, including and foremost-education. Our roads are not the problem and never were and everyone in the free world knows that. Hence the Hollywood fantasy.

As the last remnants of poverty/ heartache and devastation that has already been brought toward all indefensible peoples, I celebrate with you.

I truly believe that Oahu can be, and most importantly, Oahu, with its water crisis, needs to be addressed first and foremost. As it holds of course, as we all know, the queen's hospital. And all veterans and refugees from all nations, regardless of medical choices, lifestyle choices and their human right to live decently, with food shelter Ohana and, aloha

Mahalo

Ke akua

Mother of Mikaela Esperanza and peakalika Polet yang

# Kyle Kajihiro

Aloha kākou

Please find attached scoping comments on the O‘ahu ATLR EIS from Hawai‘i Peace and Justice and Koa Futures with attachments.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Kyle Kajihiro

[File exceeds maximum file size; see Sharefile]

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**From:** Kyle Kajihiro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 13:55  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: O'ahu ATR EIS Scoping Comments

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Please include the attached report with my scoping submission. Thank you.

Sincerely  
Kyle Kajihiro



Maly Ahupuaa of Makua and Kahanahaiki w Map.PDF < Caution-

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aQbueASqfkCrxfCKF-nMiWhaL7PSpe-/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aQbueASqfkCrxfCKF-nMiWhaL7PSpe-/view?usp=drive_web) >



On Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 1:02 PM Kyle Kajihiro <kkajihir@hawaii.edu < Caution-mailto:kkajihir@hawaii.edu > > wrote:  
Aloha kākou

Please find attached scoping comments on the O'ahu ATR EIS from Hawai'i Peace and Justice and Koa Futures with attachments.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Kyle Kajihiro



2021.9.1 HPJ:Koa Futures scoping O'ahu EIS.pdf < Caution-

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cGpb2KVTiz0bRRGDGCG\\_q-QA1vXhGa5H/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cGpb2KVTiz0bRRGDGCG_q-QA1vXhGa5H/view?usp=drive_web) >

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Kyle Kajihiro, Ph.D. (he/him/his)  
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Lecturer, Department of Ethnic Studies  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
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**Hawai'i Peace and Justice & Koa Futures**  
2426 O'ahu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**Date:** August 31, 2021  
**To:** O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments; [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)  
**From:** Kyle Kajihiro; [kkajihir@hawaii.edu](mailto:kkajihir@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Scoping Comments on the O'ahu Army Training Lands Retention Environmental Impact Statement (O'ahu EIS)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kyle Kajihiro, a board member of Hawai'i Peace and Justice and a member of Koa Futures, a hui of Hawai'i residents concerned about the negative effects of military activities in Hawai'i and the region. On behalf of both groups, I am submitting these scoping comments on the O'ahu Army Training Lands Retention Environmental Impact Statement (O'ahu EIS).

### **Historical and Cultural Context**

**Kanaka 'Ōiwi law and cultural practices are integrally related to the 'āina.** There is a Kanaka 'Ōiwi proverb which expresses a traditional legal principle governing proper human conduct in relation to the natural environment:

He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka.  
*Land is chief; man is its servant.* (Pukui 62)

In order to properly assess the impacts of the proposed action, the O'ahu EIS must first situate Kānaka 'Ōiwi (Native Hawaiians) as genealogically, culturally, and spiritually related to the 'āina (land) itself. This means that any activities which affect the environment necessarily affect Kānaka 'Ōiwi, especially those with closer genealogical ties to the particular lands in question. Such an orientation will also affect how the significance of impacts are evaluated.

Hawaiian Kingdom law, which has been incorporated into current State law, recognized the inherent relationship of mutual responsibilities and care between 'āina and Kānaka 'Ōiwi, which differs from the rights of the general public. Kanaka 'Ōiwi traditional and customary practices inhere to the land itself. In *Public Access Shoreline Hawai'i v. Hawai'i County Planning Commission* ("Pash II") 79 Hawai'i 425 (1995), the Hawai'i Supreme Court found that a traditional and customary right remains intact even though a particular site in an ahupua'a has been abandoned.

**Kānaka 'Ōiwi never relinquished sovereignty.** Among the findings and conclusions in Public Law 103-150, two stand out as most relevant to the present study: (1) the importance of land to Kānaka 'Ōiwi, and (2) as a condition of the Admissions Act, public trust lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom were to be held by the State for, among other things, "... the betterment of the condition of Native Hawaiians." Further, Public Law 103-150 finds, in relevant part, "Whereas, the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent

sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum; Whereas, the health and well-being of the Native Hawaiian people is intrinsically tied to their deep feelings and attachment to the land” (P.L. 103-150 1993).

To illustrate this last claim, in the *Makua Valley Public Meeting held on January 27, 2001, Condensed Transcript and Concordance*, a teenager Ka‘iulani Kauihou testified:

If you don’t have a connection to the land, you are not going to feel what the land is feeling. And the bombing of Mākua isn’t just hurting the land, it is hurting us, and it hurts us, and it’s — I am sorry....don’t just stop it because you are damaging the land or resources, the animals, the water, everything; because you are hurting people. And that’s why I am here. Because we don’t want to hurt anymore. (2001, 99-100)

Thus, the O‘ahu EIS must consider that the dispossession and destruction of ‘āina is a source of deep ongoing cultural trauma for many Kānaka ‘Ōiwi.

**The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** articulates the important legal standard that Indigenous Peoples shall not be subjected to government actions without their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) (2007). The removal of residents of Mākua and the taking of their land was a violation of this principle. The continued use of these Hawaiian trust lands without the free, prior, and informed consent of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi would constitute a violation of FPIC under UNDRIP.

### **Purpose and Need Statement**

**The EIS process is flawed due to conflicting interests and responsibilities of the Army and the State.** The U.S. Army, as lessee, and the State of Hawai‘i (the State), as lessor and trustee of the Hawaiian land trust, have fundamentally different and in some instances, conflicting interests and responsibilities with regard to the lands leased by the Army. The purpose and need statement defines the proposed action solely from the perspective of the lessee and fails to consider the purpose and need for action from the perspective of the lessor/trustee. Thus the design and scope of the EIS is fundamentally flawed. It is a case of the tail wagging the dog.

**The State of Hawai‘i should conduct its own land use planning and environmental review process.** Under U.S. law, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has the authority to decide whether or not to lease Hawaiian trust land. This decision must be informed and based on its fiduciary duties as trustee of the Hawaiian public land trust. The State should conduct its own planning process and environmental review to determine the future disposition of the three O‘ahu parcels.

**The principle of mālama ‘āina dictates the purpose and need for action.** In the absence of a separate State EIS, the present NEPA/HEPA EIS must be based on the State’s highest duty to protect the natural and cultural resources of trust lands. In *Clarence Ching and Mary Maxine Kahaulelio v. Suzanne Case*, Judge Gary Chang ruled:

Public trust lands are state-owned lands that are held for the use and benefit of the people in general of the State of Hawaii. The State of Hawaii is the trustee of these public lands in the public trust. The trustee of the public lands trust has the highest duty to preserve

and maintain the trust lands. This duty is broadly coined in the concept of "malama 'aina"—to care for the land. (*Clarence Ching and Mary Maxine Kahaulelio vs. Suzanne Case* 2018)

The court found that Army activities have caused significant environmental damage which violate the terms of the lease. The court also determined that the State has a duty to enforce the terms of the lease consistent with the principle of mālama 'āina. The Army as lessee is bound by the lease to mālama 'āina. However, it has failed to restore the environmental harm caused by its activities on Hawaiian trust lands. Accordingly, the purpose and need statement must be rewritten to reflect this duty to clean up and restore the leased land.

While this lawsuit specifically pertained to General Lease (GL) 3849 at Pōhakuloa, the same lease terms govern the three O'ahu leases (GL 3846 Poamoho, GL 3848 Mākua, GL 3850 Kahuku). The Mālama 'Āina principle must be the foundation of the purpose and need statement in the O'ahu EIS.

**The Army has not demonstrated a need for these sites.** At Mākua, a court injunction has prevented live-fire training there since 2004. And yet the Army claims to have maintained its readiness without live fire training at Mākua. This is evidence that the Army does not need Mākua for its readiness. Similarly, Poamoho is not really used for Army training except as a buffer for its other sites.

### **Alternatives Statement**

**The alternatives statement must include the restoration of environmental and cultural resources as an alternative.** In line with the above revision of the purpose and need, the alternatives statement must describe the alternative of ecological and cultural restoration of the affected parcels. Applying the mālama 'āina principle, the return of the three leased O'ahu parcels after restoring them to their condition prior to the Army's use of this land should be the *preferred alternative*. The proposed "No Action" alternative should specify that the Army must fulfill its responsibilities to clean up and restore its past damage to environmental and cultural resources. In the proposed modified and minimum land retention scenarios, the alternative must include an explicit commitment by the Army to restore environmental and cultural resources damaged by military activities. The Army must fulfill its agreements to return leased lands to the people of Hawai'i in its original condition by 2029.

**The alternatives analysis must describe the benefits of returning the land.** The EIS should assess the substantial social, cultural, and environmental benefits of freeing the Hawaiian trust lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho from continued military occupation, which would put an end to further training-related degradation, contamination, and destruction.

**The alternatives analysis must analyze other suitable locations outside of Hawai'i where Army training activities may be conducted.** Previously, during the process to station the Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) in Hawai'i, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Army violated NEPA when it failed to adequately consider alternative sites outside of Hawai'i. To justify proceeding with SBCT construction, the Army then insisted that stationing the SBCT in Hawai'i was vital to readiness. And yet, in 2016, less than ten years after the decision to station the SBCT in Hawai'i was finalized, the Army removed the SBCT to

Washington State. The present EIS must consider alternative locations for proposed training activities.

## **Affected Environment**

Defining the scope of the affected environment requires thinking along both *temporal* and *spatial* axes.

**Temporal Scope: Environmental effects of past, present, and foreseeable future activities.** In order to do an accurate assessment of environmental impacts of proposed actions, the EIS must begin with a thorough understanding of the *baseline and current ecological and cultural conditions* of the affected sites.

**Baseline environmental conditions.** *Baseline conditions* are the environmental conditions which existed *prior to military use of the land*. A reasonably accurate picture of baseline conditions can be determined by extrapolating from historical records, oral histories, cultural, archaeological, and geophysical studies, and biological studies of relatively intact native ecosystems in neighboring areas which have similar environmental conditions. The analysis of baseline conditions should also include descriptions of cultural practices that once existed in the affected parcels. Although these activities may have been suspended due to the current military use, the EIS should analyze how such practices could be revived in those spaces.

For example, the transcripts of interviews conducted by Kelly and Quintal (1977) and Maly (1998) provide rich baseline information about the cultural sites and practices and resources that existed in Mākua prior to the Army occupation of the land. Archaeological investigations of rock shelters, caves, sinkholes, imu and habitation sites can provide glimpses of past ecological conditions and human habitation at these sites.

**Current environmental conditions.** Understanding *current environmental conditions* at Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku requires a comprehensive study of the *cumulative environmental effects of all past and ongoing military and non-military activities* which may affect these sites. Comparing baseline and current environmental and cultural conditions provides a picture of changes over time. This is important for understanding what would be required for restoration of the natural and cultural environment.

**Historical events strongly condition the social and cultural impacts of present and future actions.** In 1893, the U.S. military participated in a white settler coup d'état against Queen Lili'uokalani. This breach of international law and Hawaiian sovereignty by the U.S. military presents a fundamental contradiction between Kānaka 'Ōiwi and the United States. Other events have compounded the problems associated with the U.S. occupation of Hawaiian land. In Mākua, a thriving community was displaced and dispossessed by the military during World War II to create a military reservation. The trauma of this forced removal haunted some elders until their deaths. Today, their stories of historical injustice establish the need and purpose for acts of restorative justice going forward.

In January 27, 2001, the late Walter Kamana, a kupuna who was evicted from Mākua in WWII, testified about the trauma of the military seizure of Mākua:

I was small, used to run when the plane come in. The plane had no respect for people living in the valley. Only had a small little church. You ever seen your church get bombed one Sunday? I seen that, small boy. I seen my church get taken away by a bomb.... I hope my ancestors come back outside and tell you guys, because I going tell you why, nothing can cover that, that you continue it more and more. You bury all water wells inside there, you bury toxic stuff there, you cover up, bury inside that place....No come down here, use us Hawaiians....We been taking and holding in our puke, something hurts so much. *(Makua Valley Public Meeting held on January 27, 2001, Condensed Transcript and Concordance)*

In the 1977 "Cultural History Report of Makua Military Reservation and Vicinity, Makua Valley, Oahu, Hawaii," Marion Kelly and Sidney Michael Quintal documented the views of former residents of Mākua about the past, present, and future of Mākua:

No. 1

Q: When the military took it over, do you think that was a good thing?

A: I don't think so. That place is for all Hawaiians, for farming, should have a farm, raise cattle.

Q: What would you like to see happen to Makua Valley?

A: Give it back to us again. There's water in there. There's still water in there.

No. 3

Q: What do you think about the takeover of Makua Valley by the military?

A: Sad, sad.

Q: Do you think it was necessary at the time?

A: No. There was more hysteria than anything else. That's why the government moved in. It was hysteria on their part. They didn't need that land...Look what they did, they desecrated Makua. It was sinful. It was shameful.

Q: What do you feel about this right now? How do you feel? What should happen to it now?

A: What should happen? They should give it back, that whole area, and turn it into a State Park for the people of Hawaii. Now, what I mean about a State Park, I'm talking about the planting of native trees. Native, now, not this malihini trees, but native trees...I don't mind going hiking up Makua...It's beautiful up there...Makua has a beautiful place. I can see the whole Makua Bay, that whole area developed into one big park. You got all the water holes. Run pumps, start planting coconut trees. Build, I don't know what you call that, build campsites all along the beach area. Let the people enjoy the beauty of Makua, and of course mauka side, start planting native trees.

Q: Do you think that the military should not continue the present usage of the valley?

A: No, no, no, no. No, we've come into a rocket age; they don't need that any more. Everything is press-button. They don't need land anymore. Press the button, up goes the rocket. They don't need land...Leave it natural. Don't make it artificial...You want to recollect the past, don't modernize it. If you want to do it down by the road, build all the modern facilities like a washhouse, bathrooms, little cabins on the down side, fine. The mauka side of the road, leave it with nature completely. They want to make a couple of outdoor luas on top, that's all right.

No. 5

Q: What is your personal opinion of the Army taking over Makua Valley for bombing when the war started?

A: They don't need that place for bombing. During the wartime they had to use it, but when it is peacetime again, they should change it back to the people. They were blocking this and that during the war. Today, they should leave it alone and keep peace...

Q: If the Army should give up Makua today, what should happen to the valley?

A: Well, what they should do, is have the State take a look at it for homes, if people want to live out there, or for agricultural use. Coffee is scarce.

No. 6

Q: When the army took over, how did you feel?

A: We felt there was nothing we could do. Felt sad. We fix up our place, cleaned it up, everything looked nice, then we have to leave. Very sad to leave. If the Army give back Makua, I would like to go back. Good place to live. Before, food was plentiful. Now, since the Army, you don't find too many things.

No. 9

Q: Now you've said...that most of the people who are involved in this, most of the groups who are involved in Kahoolawe and Makua Valley, would like to see eventually the valley returned to the Hawaiians.

A: Yes. Frankly, a self-interest group.

Q: How do you feel about it yourself?

A: When it's returned to the Hawaiians... I would like to see something bold, some dynamic leadership in the area of developing an alternative economic and social system. I think Makua Valley has the potential, for housing, both of those perhaps as a social project. I would not advocate government control of the project, which poses a big question, because they're the only ones who have enough money to finance something like that. But, as an example, are you familiar with the Amana colonies? Essentially it's a system of family oriented businesses, where one family produces livestock, one family produces the agricultural needs, another family does the wine, cheeses, etc., etc., and it

works with no cash currency within the social system. I would like to see something along those lines tried at Makua.

Q: So what you see as a positive future for Makua Valley is, number one, that it be returned, the land be returned to the State and somehow made available to people who want to develop such a community to live there and grow their crops and exchange among each other and be a model community... where you don't use money...

A: Yes. I also see it as a springboard. We do live in a world of money, but I do see among the economic alternatives, several possibilities for also using it as a base for developing some kind of a corporation for profit structure to supply the necessary cash currency in those things that you would not be able to produce out of the land.

Q: You mean some kind of a cash crop?

A: Yes, or products. It may even be manufacturing. But I'm really talking about pie in the sky right now. I see a world today, especially with the kids out here. It's not too healthy. Things seem to be falling down around our ears. I just feel like we're trapped in a social and economic cycle in this state, and something needs to be done to break that cycle. We need to step out. We're unique as an island State, and I think there are a lot of resources here that we haven't tapped, largely because of the economic situation, because it costs a great deal of money to go into experimental programs, some of which will fail. And the fear (of failure] of course, for a politician is very real. Which is the reason I say it has to be something that is structured, whatever is done to Makua Valley, if we are looking into an alternative economic and social system. It has to be something that is not controlled by government, so you don't have any of that voter pressure to worry about if the project is not going well. Also, it's an approach that would require some very dedicated people and a great deal of knowledge and expertise...I'm not an agriculturalist, I'm not an expert on anything, really, but it would seem to me that Makua, the size of that valley, would not be able to support a large amount of people, if one of the alternatives is an agrarian based economy. But, as an experimental station, it seems to me it would be excellent.

A: The thing that bothers me the most is the bombing itself. As far as what should be done with the valley, I really haven't thought that far ahead. I just know that the bombing is wrong.

Q: And what do you feel about the clearing of it? You know all the arguments pro and con.

A: Yes, well, I can only come back with the standard. You know, we gave back Germany and Japan after the war and returned the land to people who we were at war with. Now what's the big deal with Makua Valley?

No. 12

Q: What do you think should be done to Makua?

A: I don't know because people own land over there.

Q: Do you think the Army should keep it? Or do you think they should give it back to the State, or what? A: What did I say?

Q: I. said he'd like to see it given back to the people.

A: Of course, the grave, that cemetery over there, not much to look at now, but I. always wanted to be the caretaker over there, to take care of that place...The people who own land, they should get it back. And that cemetery over there should be nice, but it's people who go by there and destroy that fence, people who don't have family [there].

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Q: What do you think should happen to Makua Valley now?

A: Give em back.

Q: And then what?

A: Leave em like that. No, you gotta fix em up. You see, all the bombing, all that crap, they had more damn bombs fall on Germany and everything, they clean em up, they all back living there again. What the hell. Makua is nothing. Now there's another thing they damaged there. They had beautiful water tunnels. Natural spring water from the mountain came down. McCandless used to get all that. They bombed the hell out of that. They had one dam in the center; they had one dam and on the right. There's two valleys, on the right, two water tunnels. Two tunnels and they used to pipe that water all the way down to Lester Marks down the beach. Blue the water. The water also came for the cattle too.

You see the house and recreational area, but I don't know about tourism, but I sure hate to see tourism over there. But it already is because the guys that get out there and enjoy, but you don't have hotels over there. The thing is not to build the hotels over there. Leave em like that, and the guys want to go walk up in the mountains.

The citizens, for the citizens, because we have so limited ocean space. Certain places they should leave for the citizens is down this side, the local guys go up there, or you want to go horseback riding, go inside there.

If they want to build a place for homes [that] will be Keawaula or Keaau, because those two places are dry country, not like Makua. Makua is real damp area. The State, I don't care what, both valleys [Keawaula and Keaau], you go down there right now, they're both dry, but not Makua. Makua is green. That rain come out, and if you dig 10 to 15 feet, you hit all the water you like. We was raised up on the well water, brackish; further back you hit the spring water.

Q: Let's go back to this thing of what should happen to Makua now.

A: Just leave it as it is. Of course you get lot of squatters, so it looks kind of, you know, but certain lifestyle, so the beach is free...

Q: Now, you were [born and] brought up there...what do you think should happen to Makua?



A. Use it for farming. Certain areas in there should be on the farm.

**Several important themes** stand out from these survivors' comments which should drive the purpose and need of the O'ahu EIS:

- First, the forced eviction of Mākua residents was unjust and traumatic.
- Second, former residents wished to return to Mākua to continue their agricultural and subsistence lifestyles.
- Third, Mākua should be cleaned up and restored with native vegetation and food crops.
- Fourth, Mākua should be a site for productive and sustainable social and economic development alternatives.

**Spatial Scope: Region of Influence (ROI):** The geographical scope of analysis, or region of influence (ROI) must consider the cumulative effects of all activities at the affected sites, the surrounding vicinity, and more distant sites which may be functionally or culturally related to the parcels in question. Thus the ROI analysis must go beyond the boundaries of the parcels in question to include effects downwind, downstream, underground, overhead, visual landscapes, and soundscapes. The spatial effects must consider activities that cross boundaries, such as training tied to military operations in other lands and the movement of organisms across boundaries. For example, analyzing the impacts of helicopter activity at the affected O'ahu lease sites must examine military flight patterns over the other parts of the island and their noise and safety impacts. Or rising tensions between the United States and China in Southeast Asia can intensify environmental harm to Hawaiian lands and endanger peoples living in the conflict zones.

**Ka'ānani'au represent an expansive map of traditional cultural properties on O'ahu:** Kanaka 'Ōiwi traditional cultural properties may extend beyond local boundaries to connect distant landmarks and geographic features into a complex and expansive system. On O'ahu, the Kanaka 'Ōiwi cultural landscape centered at the piko (navel) of Kūkaniloko extends outward radially to encompass and connect points across the entire island. The geographic markers of these connected sites are known as ka'ānani'au (the beautiful continuous flow of time). In his interviews with Tom Lenchanko, the kahu of Kūkaniloko, the sacred birthing stones of O'ahu chiefs, Joseph Genz writes

Traditionally, Kūkaniloko extends geographically to encompass the island of O'ahu within (iloko) and without (iwaho) a network of ka'ānani'au, superimposed upon the six territorial moku land divisions of Kona, Ewa, Wai'anae, Waialua, Ko'olaupoko and Ko'olaupoko. (2011)

This suggests that the spatial scope of the EIS must analyze the effects of military activities across the network of interconnected ka'ānani'au. How are the three O'ahu lease sites connected to the piko of Kūkaniloko and to its network of ka'ānani'au? Do particular Army activities disrupt the relational cultural functions of ka'ānani'au?

## **Land Use**

**Public Trust Lands:** The EIS should incorporate a complete history of land tenure and land use with maps for each of the three O'ahu parcels. The Army's use of Hawaiian public trust lands

(also known as “ceded lands”) is highly contentious because it represents the ongoing injustice of the overthrow of the Queen and the taking of Hawaiian lands by the United States. The status of these lands are unique in that they are the Hawaiian government and crown lands held in trust by the State of Hawai‘i for a number of public purposes defined by the Statehood Act. The EIS should analyze whether the three O‘ahu leases fulfill the public purposes of the public land trust.

**Condemnation of land and its political repercussions:** A document titled “Information Paper: Subject: Land leased to the U.S. Army by the State of Hawaii for Training” (Army Garrison Hawaii 2015), states that “Major actions associated with entering into a new lease are broken down into (3) Phases,” with the Phase III including the step “Proceed with Acquisition or Condemnation” (Army Garrison Hawaii 2015). Condemnation of the land would be an egregious breach of trust and abuse of power. Considering the historical injustice of the U.S.-military backed overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the unlawful means by which the United States claims to have annexed Hawaiian territory, the forcible taking of land by the federal government is one of the most politically volatile issues in Hawai‘i. The military’s condemnation of 187-acres of Kamaka family land in Waikāne after failing to clear UXO continues to be a bitter reminder of the grievous history of injustice suffered by Kānaka ‘Ōiwi due to abuses of military power. Will the Army renounce the use of eminent domain to condemn lands at these O‘ahu sites? Or will it keep condemnation as a viable option? If condemnation is still under consideration, the EIS must analyze the political and social repercussions of land condemnation.

**State Land Use Regulations:** The EIS must analyze whether the types of activities conducted at the leased parcels are consistent with the State and County land use designations. Both Mākua and Poamoho reside in a State conservation district and a County preservation zone. In Kahuku, one parcel is in a State agricultural district and zoned for agriculture by the County, while the other parcel is in a State conservation district and zoned for preservation by the County.

## **Cultural Resources**

The EIS should include a thorough inventory of the cultural and historic sites in the three areas, a discussion of the cultural significance of the sites in the three parcels in relation to the larger cultural landscape, and a discussion as to how the condition of these sites has changed while the Army has used these lands. Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and the general public currently only have limited access to the three parcels, and therefore, are denied the right to fully enjoy and conduct cultural, religious, or subsistence practices until the lands are cleaned up and restored.

The O‘ahu EIS must incorporate a comprehensive Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA). Pursuant to the Hawai‘i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA), and Articles IX and XII of Hawai‘i State Constitution government agencies are required “to promote and preserve cultural beliefs, practices, and resources of native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups” (Guide to the Implementation and Practice of the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act, 2012, 11). The CIA must include an analysis of adverse cultural impacts on Kanaka ‘Ōiwi and other cultural practitioners by military activities which have occurred in the past, and which may occur in the future as a result of proposed action.

**Cultural Landscapes:** As described above, the O‘ahu EIS should examine the entire connected cultural landscape of the ka‘ānani‘au centered on Kūkaniloko. Hawai‘i law recognizes that in addition to built structures, a cultural resource may also be natural features of the landscape, such

as a mountain, hill, rock, tree, stream, or animal which has cultural significance to Kānaka ‘Ōiwi. This study should include an in-depth cultural landscape study (CLS) and ethnographic survey (ES). What previous Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) studies have been conducted at the three O‘ahu sites? And what were the results of those studies?

**The Papakū Makawalu methodology**, developed by the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation (2017), would be appropriate to employ in the assessment of the cultural meanings and significance of affected areas. Papakū Makawalu can contribute to an assessment of traditional cultural properties.

- What do the place names signify? How do they map onto different mo‘olelo?
- What environmental phenomena can be observed at these sites, and how do they relate to the place names and stories associated with those places?
- What are the relationships between the affected parcels and other culturally significant sites, such as Kūkaniloko?
- What is the relationship between the Poamoho parcel and Kūkaniloko? Between Poamoho and sites in Ko‘olaupoko (Waikāne, Hakipu‘u, Kualoa, Ka‘a‘awa), including numerous wahi pana (storied places) in Waikāne (Waikāne spring, Kamaka Shrine, Waiololī and Waiololā streams)?
- How does Mākua relate to adjacent places (Kuaokalā, Ka‘ena, Kawaihāpai)?
- How are these sites referenced or integrated into various mo‘olelo? For example, the Mo‘olelo of Hi‘iakaikapoliopole describes Hi‘iaka’s movements and deeds in the vicinity of Mākua and connects this landscape to a much larger cultural landscape of her travels (Maly and Institute for Sustainable Development 1998). One particularly interesting prayer attributed to Hi‘iaka attest to Mākua as a place blessed with life-giving properties:

E ka pua o ka ‘ilima e,  
Hōmai ana ho‘i he ola  
E Mākua i ka nu‘a o ke kai-e  
Ha‘awi mai ana ho‘i ua ola-e  
E ola ku‘u kama i ka hu‘a o ke kai-e  
A ola ho‘i iā Kāne i ka wai ola-e

Oh blossom of the ‘ilima  
Let life descend  
Oh, Mākua of the ocean swells  
Grant life  
That my child of the frothy sea may live  
That life may be gained by the living waters of Kāne  
(Maly and Institute for Sustainable Development 1998, A-2)

**Cultural Sites and Resources:** The EIS must consider the range of cultural sites and resources, including, but not limited to:

- Built structures such as alanui (trails), ki‘i pōhaku (petroglyphs or other carved stone), ahu (shrines), ko‘a (fishing shrines), and heiau (temples);
- Natural landforms such as pu‘u (hills, peaks, or outcrops), papa (reefs, shelves, or other flat formations), ridges and gulches, punawai (springs), kahawai (streams), muliawai (estuaries), sand dunes or beaches, rock formations, sinkholes, caves, and lava tubes.
- Environmental phenomena such as rain, wind, waves, clouds, mist, heat, cold, fire, rainbows, storms, sounds, sun, moon, stars, tides, seasonal weather patterns and ecological cycles;
- Living organisms including terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals which may be referenced in mo‘olelo (historical and legendary accounts), kinolau (multiple body forms of deities), la‘au lapa‘au (plants used in traditional healing), life forms used in ceremonies and hula, and other practices;
- Areas traditionally and customarily used for fishing, gathering of resources, hunting, harvesting of birds;
- Sites for observation and study of celestial bodies, burial sites, leina a ka ‘uhane (spirit leaping platforms), quarries and workshops for tools, and sources of water.

Some questions pertaining to cultural resources include:

- How have military activities affected the cultural sites and resources in the three parcels?
- How have military activities affected the availability and quality of plant, animal, and mineral resources for Kanaka ‘Ōiwi cultural practices?
- What are the effects of live fire training on cultural sites and artifacts in Mākua?
- How have military activities affected access to cultural sites and resources?
- How have cultural practices been affected by military access restrictions?

**Cultural Practices:** Pursuant to the Army's lease agreement and legal obligations, the Army must mālama ‘āina to restore life and create a safe and healthy environment for the well-being of flora, fauna and all interdependent life forms including the native tenants/hoa ‘āina/beneficiaries. Hoa‘āina include, but are not limited to: lawai‘a (fishers), hunters and gatherers, kahuna lā‘au lapa‘au (herbal medicine practitioners), hula hālau (schools of hula), lua pā (Hawaiian martial arts groups), builders of stone and wood structures, mahi‘ai (farmers), traditional wood and stone carvers, and other cultural and religious/spiritual practitioners and their relationship to the ‘āina. Adverse impacts on cultural practices include, but are not limited to restrictions on access due to security or safety restrictions, the destruction of cultural or religious sites, the destruction of environmental resources needed for conducting cultural practices, and the disruptions of the view plane and serenity of the area caused by military activities.

- What Kanaka ‘Ōiwi cultural practices have been conducted in the past and are currently conducted in the ROI?

- What measures must be taken to ensure the availability of cultural sites and resources needed for the revival and/or perpetuation of these cultural practices?
- How will the Army improve the ability of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and the public to have safe, meaningful, and regular cultural access to the three parcels?
- Mālama ‘āina or caring for the land is an essential element of Kanaka ‘Ōiwi cultural practice. How will the Army increase the opportunities for Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and the public to safely and meaningfully participate in mālama ‘āina (environmental and cultural restoration activities such as repair of structures, planting, and landscaping) at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho?

## **Biological Resources**

**Native Ecosystems:** The EIS must adopt an ecosystem approach to analyzing the effects of the proposed military activities on the natural resources. This means studying the components, structures, and functions of affected ecosystems. Individual species cannot be considered in isolation from their ecosystems. Nor can they be considered as separate from cultural relationships with humans. Ecosystems and species that inhabit them are also cultural resources for Kānaka ‘Ōiwi. Related to the cultural resources discussion above, what species have special cultural significance for Kānaka ‘Ōiwi? Are there ‘aumakua (ancestral or tutelary deities) in the affected areas? How are these culturally significant biological resources affected by military activities?

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** It is imperative that all rare, threatened and or endangered organisms within the area remain protected. The EIS must incorporate a complete inventory of all rare, threatened and/or endangered plant, insect and animal species including those identified as Native Hawaiian ‘aumakua (ancestral or tutelary deities) and kinolau (multiple bodily manifestations of elemental deities) within the affected parcels and neighboring areas.

- What occurrences of threatened and endangered species have historically been documented within the three parcels?
- What is the current inventory of threatened and endangered species at the affected sites?
- In Kahuku, wind farms are known to kill ‘Ōpe‘ape‘a. How are ‘Ōpe‘ape‘a affected by military training activities?
- What sea birds nest in the affected parcels? How are they affected by military training?
- Pueo have been seen in Mākua. Are they found in Kahuku and Poamoho? How are they affected by military activities?

**Invasive Species:** The EIS should fully disclose the extent of invasive species threats at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho.

- What is the inventory and extent of invasive species threats at the three O‘ahu sites?

- What is the status of ungulates within the area used by the Army and the extent of damage they have caused?
- What is the Army and other parties doing to control these threats?
- Please provide incident reports of damage to endangered species or habitats by invasive species.
- Please provide incident reports of accidental releases or introductions of invasive species, such as: hitchhiking invasive species on vehicles or personnel or the introduction of invasive plants or animals such as fire ants, rodents, snakes, spiders, rhinoceros beetles as stowaways on cargo boats, vehicles, and aircraft.

**Wildfires:** The O‘ahu EIS must provide a complete accounting of wildfires at the three O‘ahu sites, including the dates, causes, extent of damage, and responses. It must evaluate the impact of fires on natural and cultural resources and the effectiveness of fire mitigation measures.

- How are wildfires documented, and where is this information reported and archived?
- What have been the impacts on fires to protected species and habitats?
- What have been the impacts of fires on cultural sites and resources?
- How have fire incidents affected the transformation of the ecology?
- How are biologists and cultural resources specialists documenting the impacts of fires?
- How have wildfires affected the health, safety, and quality of life of surrounding communities?

## **Socioeconomics / Environmental Justice**

**Environmental Justice Analysis:** As mentioned above, the most significant environmental justice impacts will be borne by Kānaka ‘Ōiwi who have the most profound genealogical and cultural connection to the lands in question and who experience cumulative negative impacts due to their continued alienation from ancestral lands. The key considerations in determining environmental justice impacts include:

- Crucially, environmental justice analysis in Hawai‘i must not rely on facile demographic data to claim that environmental justice impacts are negligible due to Hawai‘i’s multicultural population.
- Who has the longest history, deepest connections, and profound knowledge about the sites in question?
- Who has the greatest stake and is most directly affected by the environmental and cultural impacts there?
- Who has suffered the greatest historical injustice, cultural disintegration, and dispossession as a result of the U.S. occupation of Hawai‘i?

- Whose cultural practices are most adversely affected by Army activities in the three O‘ahu sites?
- Who is exposed to the greatest risk of exposure to toxins, injury, or death in the exercise of their cultural practices?
- How are subsistence resource users and cultural practitioners affected by the access restrictions and hazards at the three O‘ahu sites.

**Economic Impacts:** Some questions about the economic impacts of the military activities at the three O‘ahu sites are:

- What are the costs of clean up and restoration of environmental damage caused by military activity?
- What is the depreciation in the land’s value as a result of military activities?
- How does environmental damage to the land adversely affect the general public and Native Hawaiians as beneficiaries of the public land trust?
- What are the opportunity costs for military use of the land?
- How do military housing allowances affect the cost of housing on O‘ahu? How do the inflationary economic pressures of military housing policies affect the affordability of housing for unsubsidized, non-military residents?
- How does the non-taxed income of military personnel affect State revenues?
- What is the economic impact of federal dependents on public services such as schools, social services, and infrastructure costs?
- What are the ecological services provided by these three sites? What is the economic value of these ecological services? And how are these ecological services affected by military activities?
- What social and economic value can be gained by restoring the ecological and cultural integrity of the three O‘ahu sites?

## **Social Impacts**

**Criminal and socially offensive behavior.** In many areas of the world where U.S. military bases are located, there are negative social impacts associated with military personnel.

- Statistics and qualitative data on crimes committed by military personnel on O‘ahu.
- Military personnel engaged in the solicitation of prostitution and sex trafficking on O‘ahu.
- Military personnel engaged in illegal bonfires, illegal off-roading in conservation areas, and illegal parties with alcohol consumption on public beaches in violation of COVID-19 restrictions.

**Noise:** Noise from live fire training and aircraft activity is a major complaint about military training on O‘ahu. The EIS should include consultations with residents of neighboring communities about the effects of noise.

- Provide reports and other documentation of noise complaints, deviations from approved flight paths, and other violations approved of air operations.
- What are the noise burdens on the communities surrounding the military bases? Noise studies should be done to determine the level of noise impact.
- How does noise pollution affect quality of life? How does noise affect the value of homes?
- What public health affects may be associated with chronic aircraft noise? Some studies suggest that exposure to chronic noise may increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases and mental health problems. Are there any public health indicators that suggest exposure to aircraft noise may be a contributing factor?
- How does noise affect the mental health of veterans?
- How does noise affect the behaviors of animals, especially endangered species?

**Air Quality:** The EIS must provide thorough data on air quality at Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku.

- What kinds of documentation and reporting is conducted when there are incidents that may adversely affect air quality, such as a fire or training event?
- What emissions of air pollutants have been reported at the three O‘ahu sites?
- What toxins or hazardous substances have been detected in airborne particulate matter during fires or training events?

### **Water Resources**

- What is the history and status of aquifers in the vicinity of the three O‘ahu parcels? Historical accounts report numerous sources of groundwater in Mākua? What is the status of water resources at Poamoho and Kahuku?
- How has live fire training affected aquifers within Mākua?
- Where are the wells? What is the history of water usage?

### **Natural Hazards, Geology, and Soils**

- How have military activities affected erosion and runoff at the sites in question?

**Visual Resources:** Wide open spaces and view planes are part of the significance of numerous Hawaiian cultural sites.

- What are the Kanaka ‘Ōiwi visual resources at the three O‘ahu sites?



- What is the cultural significance of different view planes?
- How are these visual resources affected by military use of these lands, for example, by denying access to particular observation points?

### **Public Facilities and Infrastructure**

- What are the effects of military activities on the quality of roads, schools, parks, and other public facilities and services? This relates to the economic impacts.
- What are the impacts of the Schofield Barracks wastewater treatment facility on downstream resources and users?
- How are military activities affecting traffic?

**Recreational Activities:** How are military activities affecting ocean and land-based recreational activities, such as hiking, mountain biking, and motocross? The military occupation of the three parcels restricts public access to recreation in these areas.

**Toxic and Hazardous Substances:** The EIS must include comprehensive information characterizing toxic and hazardous substances in soil, groundwater, surface water runoff, uptake in plants and animals, air emissions, and air borne particulate matter. The Contaminants of Concern (COC) that should be investigated include, but are not limited to:

- Munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), including chemical munitions and improved conventional munitions (ICMs);
- Metals, including lead from small arms munitions, mercury, beryllium, cadmium, arsenic, copper, aluminum;
- Depleted uranium (DU), strontium 90, and other radiological contaminants;
- PCBs, dioxins and furans;
- Energetics and explosive constituents and their byproducts;
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which is commonly found in fire-fighting foam;
- Perchlorate, a common chemical in rocket fuels;
- Petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POLs);
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including solvents, pesticides, and herbicides;
- Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylene (BTEX) and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs);
- Asbestos;
- Various kinds of air pollution emissions.

**Cumulative Impacts:** The EIS must incorporate data and analysis of the environmental effects of all past military activities at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho, including:

- Provide a comprehensive list of military activities ever conducted at the three sites, including any nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons tests and military activities by other service branches and foreign militaries.
- Conduct a comprehensive study of toxic and hazardous substances released into the environment and their effects on the human and natural environment.
- Provide a description of all munitions used, the quantities used, the explosive yields, contaminants associated with these munitions, the extent of unexploded ordnance contamination, and the results of any removal actions.
- Compile and disclose a comprehensive report on wildfires, their causes, responses, and environmental consequences.

The EIS must also take into account the combined environmental and cultural impacts of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future military and non-military activities at or near the project areas. Some past projects that contribute to cumulative environmental and cultural impacts include:

- Stryker Brigade Combat Team training support facilities. With the removal of the Stryker Brigade from Hawai‘i, what happened to the facilities constructed for the SBCT? Will the Army dispose of land acquired and developed for the now defunct SBCT?
- Drum Road improvements;
- Increased military aircraft activities on O‘ahu for all service branches;
- Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training facilities;
- UXO and other contamination at Formerly Used Defense Sites, Installation Restoration Program sites, Military Munitions Response Program sites.

Present and reasonably foreseeable actions that must be taken into consideration include:

- USINDOPACOM expansion plans for the Pacific region;
- Marine Corps Realignment in the Asia Pacific region from Okinawa to Guam, Australia, and Hawai‘i;
- Wind turbine development in Kahuku;
- Missile defense radar facilities proposed for Kahuku, Ka‘ena, or Koke‘e;
- Army munitions storage facility at West Loch.

**In Mākua, the presence of an ICM area prevents sufficient environmental and cultural surveys.** Given the dangers of the improved conventional munitions (ICMs) in Mākua Valley, a large area in the center of the valley remains off-limits and insufficiently surveyed for

archaeological and cultural resources. Without thorough archaeological investigations it is impossible for the Army or the community to know what resources may be affected and what those impacts might be. As a result, any EIS for Mākua without a thorough investigation of the ICM area will be incomplete because it will not sufficiently evaluate the affected environment or the environmental impacts.

The present EIS must do better to characterize the cultural and natural resources and impacts within the impact area. The Army should explore different technologies to conduct surveys of the ICM area. Again, the Army has a duty to clean up and restore the environmental damage caused by its activities. This EIS must begin the process of fulfilling those responsibilities.

**A pattern of insufficient cultural resources surveys and protection measures.** In 2006, Native Hawaiian cultural monitors working on a Stryker Brigade construction project in Līhu‘e (Schofield Barracks) reported that construction crews had breached a buffer zone for an important Native Hawaiian sacred site. Previous archaeological and cultural resources surveys of the construction site had failed to identify many cultural resources. In response the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) issued a notice of violation of the Programmatic Agreement and initiated a lawsuit (Namu‘o 2006; *Office of Hawaiian Affairs v. Robert Gates, et al* 2008). The Army and OHA reached a settlement that allowed for an “independent, objective ‘second opinion’ regarding the adequacy of cultural resource inventories associated with the Stryker Transformation Areas in Hawai‘i” (Monahan 2009, iii). It permitted up to 50 days of fieldwork by this third party archaeologist accompanied by representatives of both parties.

The “Cultural Resource Evaluations of Stryker Transformation Areas in Hawai‘i” (Monahan 2009), the so-called “Monahan Report”, found a number of problems with the Army’s cultural resources management of the Stryker transformation, including “problems with the Army’s ‘due diligence’ consideration of *cumulative impacts and mitigation commitments* at many cultural resources;” much of the Army’s previous archaeological survey work was “only available as *draft reports*,” “a *general lack of subsurface testing (excavation)*,” and questionable qualifications of personnel involved in previous surveys (Monahan 2009, iii).

The Monahan Report documented numerous cultural sites and resources that had been overlooked by previous Army surveys and recommended their reevaluation for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Monahan found that professional determinations of “what is or is not, historically significant” have been “based on studies that lack meaningful input from Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians)” (Monahan 2009, 300). Further, the Monahan Report called for a Traditional Cultural Properties study of the entire cultural landscape which would incorporate Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge in the determination of historical and cultural significance of the cultural resources.

The Monahan Report raises numerous generalized concerns regarding the completeness and accuracy of archaeological, cultural, and ecological surveys conducted on the Army’s vast land holdings in Hawai‘i. However, the Army sought to prevent the release of the Monahan Report under the terms of the settlement agreement ( *Office of Hawaiian Affairs v. Robert Gates, et al* 2008). OHA sent the Army subsequent letters requesting that the Army correct the deficiencies identified in the Monahan Report. It is unclear whether the Army has fulfilled its commitments under the settlement agreement with OHA.

Specifically regarding Kahuku Training Area, the Monahan report specifically noted that cultural resource management consultants who conducted previous archaeological work at that location failed to produce a draft report of their studies. Monahan's survey identified six previously unidentified sites and reevaluated six previously identified sites, concluding that the sites were potentially eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places pending the results of subsurface testing.

**The Army has stonewalled public information requests.** We have attempted to acquire a number of documents through freedom of information requests in preparation for public scoping. However, to date we have not gotten substantive responses from the Army.

On November 8, 2017, we submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (FOIA 18-06) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) seeking two cultural/archaeological studies related to Army training areas at Mākua and Pōhakuloa and any other documents related to the designation of Traditional Cultural Places on military lands in Hawai'i, or to the listing on the National Register of Historic Places of Native Hawaiian sites on military lands.

The USACE FOIA official sent our request to the U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i FOIA office (USAG-HI). Later that year USAG-HI sent the request back to USACE. A year later, the USACE Assistant District Counsel for Honolulu District said he would expedite our request. However, nearly four years later, we have not received any of the requested documents.

In October 2020, we submitted another FOIA request for documents pertaining to the Pōhakuloa Training Area and Department of Defense policies on leases. To date we have not received any documents from this request.

The failure to provide public information about important cultural resources and land use policies suggests (1) that there is gross negligence in the handling of Native Hawaiian cultural resources information; and (2) that the military is suppressing the release of information about cultural resources and land use in order to hide information that may be detrimental to its plans.

Over the years the Army and Marine Corps have engaged in a pattern of suppressing cultural resources information about training areas in Hawai'i. The "Cultural History Report of Makua Military Reservation and Vicinity, Makua Valley, Oahu, Hawaii" (Kelly and Quintal 1977) was not released by the Army until after 2001 when community pressure finally won the release of the report. Marion Kelly, the primary author of the report claimed that the Army withheld the document because it disagreed with the findings (Kelly and Quintal 1977).

Similarly, the "Oral History Study: Ahupua'a of Mākua and Kahanahāiki, District of Wai'anae, Island of O'ahu" (Maly and Institute for Sustainable Development 1998), which was commissioned by the Marine Corps as a part of an environmental assessment for amphibious training in Hawai'i, was never formally published or released to the public. It contained interviews with Wai'anae residents critical of the proposed training activities.

As a part of the public participation in this EIS process, we request that the following documents should be made available to the public as soon as possible:

- U.S. Department of Defense, Assistant Secretary of Defense. 2018. "Approval of Major Land Acquisition Waiver Request - US Army Hawaii Training Sites, Hawaii." June 4.

- Gollin, L.X., Kamelamela, K., Kay, A., Ishihara, N., Magat, M. and Hammatt, H. 2013. *Final Traditional Cultural Places Study/Ethnographic Report for Makua*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District. Honolulu: Cultural Surveys Hawai'i.
- *Final—Archaeological and Cultural Monitoring of Construction of Battle Area Complex (BAX) for Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii Island, Hawai'i*. November 2010.
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In 2020 the Army developed a *Real Property Master Plan for the Pohakuloa Training Area* (HHF Planners 2020a, 2020b) which describes long term land use plans for Pōhakuloa. While a digest of the report has been released, the full document has not yet been provided pursuant to FOIA. It is unclear if a similar study has been completed for O'ahu Army sites.

- The Army must make available the Real Property Master Plan or similar land use planning documents for the Army facilities and training areas on O'ahu in order for the public to meaningfully participate in the NEPA process.

## **Restoration of past environmental impacts**

The Army has an obligation to mālama 'āina, to restore the lands it presently occupies in Hawai'i. General Leases 3846, 3848, 3850 requires that that the Army “make every reasonable effort to ...remove or deactivate all live or blank ammunition upon completion of a training exercise or prior to entry by the said public, whichever is sooner” and remove “all trash, garbage and other waste materials[.]” The EIS should fully disclose the extent to which the Army has complied with this lease provision and should include a thorough investigation of the entire area to determine whether there is any military debris (including unexploded ordnance) on the land that the Army has been using. Further the EIS must outline plans for the clean up and restoration of state-owned land at the three sites affected by military contamination.

## **Issues with Public Involvement**

**Scoping meetings where participants were invisible to each other.** Unlike the problematic non-interactive Pōhakuloa EIS scoping session in 2020, the Army planned to have two in-person scoping meetings for the O'ahu sites. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 surge forced the cancellation of in-person meetings and the pivot to online scoping sessions. However, video and chat functions were turned off, effectively making attendees invisible to each other. Numerous commenters complained about this alienating treatment.

**The Army should provide technical assistance for community review of the draft EIS.**

Previously, the Army provided \$50,000 in technical assistance funding for members of the Wai‘anae Coast community to better understand and meaningfully participate in the NEPA process at Mākua. The Army should provide similar technical assistance funding of at least \$250,000 (\$50,000 each for Mākua, Kahuku, Poamoho, and Pōhakuloa) for these economically struggling affected communities to review and comment on the draft EIS.

**If the Army decides to proceed with any of the alternatives that retain Hawaiian trust lands on O‘ahu,** it should provide for community observers to observe military training activities and report irregularities or violations of existing agreements. The Army must commit to the removal of unexploded ordnance. And it must provide regular, safe, and meaningful cultural access to each of the sites. This is consistent with the terms of the Mākua settlement agreement.

**Conclusion.**

The historical impacts of military activities at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho have placed an unacceptable burden on the affected communities, especially Kānaka ‘Ōiwi whose ancestry connects them to the lands in question. The expiration of the leases will provide a valuable opportunity for Hawaiian trust lands to be returned and restored. This will provide many benefits beyond the environmental restoration of these sites; the return of these Hawaiian trust lands will provide an opportunity for the community to begin the process of healing and recovery. This duty to repair past wrongs should be the primary consideration driving decision making by the Army and the State of Hawai‘i as we look forward. Thank you for considering these comments.

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# Hawaiian Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines

Okay. Hi. My name is Arcelita Imasa. I'm a resident of Oahu and a physician in training. But I would like to testify by giving this statement of my organization, the Hawaiian Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines. I will now read our statement. We are Hawai'i-based advocates for Philippine human rights, and we oppose the proposal for the continued leasing of Hawai'i lands to the U.S. Army. We should not allow the U.S. military's continued occupation of Hawaiian lands. We stand with the kanaka maoli's and their allies' position that the use of the land, the seas, and the air by the U.S. military represent a military occupation and an encroachment of their sovereign rights to determine how the land, the seas, and the air are used. We believe that the U.S. military's presence in Hawai'i and the Pacific does not create peace, but rather ensures militarization that only leads to military occupation, international tension, and war. Through its bases, Hawai'i serves as the command center of the U.S. military domination of nearly half the planet. We Filipinos know very well the violence and injustices by the U.S. military. The U.S. military's presence in the Philippines leads to gross violations of Filipino peoples' rights. An example is the repression of the Moro people on Mindanao and aerial bombings of their communities with logistical support from the U.S. military. The Lumads in the rural indigenous communities of Mindanao are also subjected to U.S.-funded Philippine operations, displacing them from their communities to make way for multi-national corporations for mining and large agribusinesses. But most importantly, the history of U.S. intervention in the Philippines is more than military presence and control, but essentially insidious economic intervention. 1896 neo-colonial dominance in the present. The policies being dictated by the U.S. have long been repressing the Philippines local agriculture and national industries, resulting in poverty, cultural degradation, and destruction of our environment and natural resources. We as human rights advocates here in Hawai'i take the stand for the collective rights of the Hawaiian people, their right to peace, their right to a healthy environment, their right to self-determination, and the right to genuine development. We should heed the voice of the people and not allow Hawaiian lands to be used by the U.S. war machine further at the expense of the Hawaiian people, if we would like to achieve genuine peace and justice. That is the statement --...That is the statement of the Hawaii Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines and to our allies and friends opposing this continued occupation of Hawaiian lands. Makibaka huag matakot. Onward with the struggle. We are with you. Thank you.



# Historic Hawaii Foundation

Aloha,

Please see attached comments from Historic Hawai'i Foundation on the EIS Preparation Notice for Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area and Mākua Military Reservation. Please let me know if you have any issues with the file or if you need a hard copy sent by mail. Thank you, Kiersten  
Faulkner  
Executive Director  
Historic Hawai'i Foundation  
680 Iwilei Rd. Ste. 690  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXwww.historichawaii.org

**From:** [Kiersten Faulkner](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design](#); [daisy.b.pate@usace.army.mil](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] HHF Comments re EISPN for Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:19:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [HHF Comments ArmyGarrisonHI ScopeEIS StateLandLeaseRenewal 09.01.2021.pdf](#)

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha,

Please see attached comments from Historic Hawai'i Foundation on the EIS Preparation Notice for Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area and Mākua Military Reservation.

Please let me know if you have any issues with the file or if you need a hard copy sent by mail.

Thank you,

Kiersten Faulkner  
Executive Director  
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680 Iwilei Rd. Ste. 690  
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808-523-2900  
[Kiersten@historichawaii.org](mailto:Kiersten@historichawaii.org) < Caution-mailto:Kiersten@historichawaii.org >  
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# HISTORIC HAWAI'I FOUNDATION

680 Iwilei Road Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • (808)523-2900 • [preservation@historichawaii.org](mailto:preservation@historichawaii.org) •  
[www.historichawaii.org](http://www.historichawaii.org)

September 1, 2021

U.S. Army Garrison – Hawai'i & U.S. Army Installation Management Command  
Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Building 105, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Wheeler Army Airfield  
948 Santos Dumont Ave.  
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5013

Via email: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

Re: EIS Preparation Notice for Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu  
Kahuku Training Area (KTA)  
TMK 1-5-8-002:002 and 1-5-9-006:026  
Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho)  
TMK 1-7-2-001:006  
Mākua Military Reservation (MMR)  
TMK 1-8-1-001:007 and 008; 1-8-2-001:001, 022, 024 and 025

Dear Project Manager:

Historic Hawai'i Foundation received the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) and request for public comment regarding the above-mentioned project. The EISPN states that the Army is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) per 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, Army NEPA implementing regulations at 32 CFR Part 651, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-200.1. The EIS will jointly fulfill both Federal and State environmental impact statement requirements.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF) is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts that are significant to the history of Hawai'i. HHF is pleased to provide these comments, questions and concerns on issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation Comments  
to U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii  
NEPA & HRS §343 Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice and Scope  
Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu  
September 1, 2021  
Page 1 of 5

## **Project Scope**

The Army training lands on the island of O‘ahu include approximately 18,060 acres at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoha Training Area (Poamoho) and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR). Of those, approximately 6,300 acres are leased from the State of Hawai‘i. These leases expire in 2029. The Army’s proposed action is to retain the leased lands for continued military training. The Army states that the action is a real estate action only and does not involve any new training, construction or resource management activities at the subject areas. Any such future actions would be subject to future environmental compliance steps.

The overall project purpose is to “secure long-term military use of the State-owned land... the need is to allow the military to sustain current training and combat readiness requirements.... Securing long-term use of State-owned parcels would also retain access to contiguous ranges and usable land to improve and modernize Army training ranges, facilities and infrastructure on U.S. Government-owned land” (EISPN Section 1.3).

The State of Hawai‘i is charged with the decision on whether to allow Army retention of State-owned lands; what methods and terms would be associated with the retention; and whether to permit military use of the land in the State’s Conservation District, including allowable uses and management actions to meet the purposes of the Conservation District, if such a Conservation District Use Permit is applied for and issued. (EISPN Section 1.5.2).

The EISPN describes general alternatives for each of the three training areas and the individual tracts within the overall areas. A combination or modification of the alternatives may also be developed (Section 2.3):

- Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) is to retain 6,300 acres of State-owned land in support of continued military training; continue to conduct current levels and types training, and associated facility management and natural and cultural resource management. Army describes this option as the “status quo.”
- Alternative 2 (Modified Retention) would include Army retention of areas in which active training occurs and releasing back to State control lands on which limited training and natural resources management actions occur.
- Alternative 3 (Minimum Retention and Access) would include Army retaining the minimum amount of land required for critical training and releasing the remainder to the State.
- No Action Alternative would allow the current leases to expire and not be replaced by a new land retention agreement.

## Historic Hawai'i Foundation Comments

1. **Integration with NHPA Section 106:** Army states that implementation of the Proposed Action (i.e. retention of State-owned land) requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (EISPN Section 1.6).

**How and at what point will Army initiate the Section 106 process in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800?** If the intent is to integrate NEPA and Section 106 Reviews, such a decision must be disclosed at the onset of both processes. NHPA Section 106 review must be complete prior to issuance of a federal decision, so that a broad range of alternatives may be considered during the planning process (see *ACHP & OEQC "NEPA and NHPA: A Handbook for Integrating NEPA and Section 106"*).

The implementing regulations for Section 106 state that “the agency official must complete the section 106 process prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license...The agency official shall ensure that the section 106 process is initiated early in the undertaking’s planning” (see 36 CFR 800.1(c)).

Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a consulting party to the Army pursuant to the implementing regulations of the NHPA at 36 Part 800.2(c)(5) as an organization with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking and a concern for the effects on historic properties. **HHF requests to be included as a consulting party in the NHPA Section 106 consultation process.**

2. **Identification of Historic Properties and Cultural Resources:** Army states that a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) will be prepared in accordance with HRS 343 and Act 50 (Session Laws of Hawai'i 2000). The appropriate information concerning the area ahupua'a will be collected, focusing on areas near or adjacent to the State-owned land. A thorough analysis of potential impacts on cultural resources, historical resources, and traditional and customary practices will be included in the CIA. The CIA also will identify “areas of traditional importance” (ATI). The term ATI was created as a broad category to refer to all cultural resources important to native, aboriginal, or local groups. These resources include, but are not limited to, landscapes, sacred sites, shrines and “property[ies] of traditional religious and cultural importance” (PTRCIs) whether or not they have been formally evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**HHF agrees that the EIS needs to include the CIA and identify Areas of Traditional Importance. However, the identification of cultural resources also needs to include all types of historic properties, including sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts that are associated with historic events, people, design and engineering achievements and types, and/or that may provide important information on the history of Hawai'i.** This includes resources from all periods of significance and associated with any of the historic themes or associated with any of the multi-cultural peoples and events of Hawai'i.

**The EIS should include both existing historic context studies and inventories and provide new mapping and identification of historic properties in the subject areas.** As the proposed action to retain State-owned lands will also enable and lead to additional use, operations and development not only on those lands but also on the adjacent federally-owned parcels, such **identification measures should be extended to include the entirety of the three training areas, regardless of whether the ownership is State or Federal.**

- 3. Provisions for Protection, Preservation, Restoration and Management of Historic and Cultural Resources:** Both the EIS and the integrated Section 106 Agreement for the preferred alternative (i.e., the new lease, if any) need to address treatment of historic properties. The EISPN notes the existence of Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in August 2018. The PA governs multiple routine military training actions and related activities at O‘ahu training areas including KTA and Poamoho (including State-owned lands) and identifies steps to facilitate consultations, such as ongoing survey and identification of historic properties. The PA does not cover training activities at MMR.

The EIS should discuss the provisions of the PA, including any stipulations that would be tied to the proposed new lease and future management. The EIS should also address the lack of a historic preservation treatment plan for Mākua and how that will be resolved and incorporated into any future lease or real estate agreement.

In addition to the existing Programmatic Agreement provisions, any lease of State lands should include clear, strong and enforceable provisions to ensure proper identification, treatment, restoration and access to historic and cultural properties, and mitigation measures for any adverse effects, damage or harm done to them.

If and when the Army returns the lands to the State (as described for the No Action, Modified Retention and Minimum Retention options), all cultural resources and historic properties need to be restored to the pre-lease conditions and made safe for cultural practice and access.

- 4. Provisions to Assess and Resolve Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects:** The EIS needs to address the causality, and not only the physicality, of effects on historic properties from the preferred alternative. As this alternative is described as a continuation of the status quo, the current effects of the training on historic properties needs to be evaluated and resolved.

Please note that if the effect comes from the undertaking at the same time and place with no intervening cause, it is considered “direct” regardless of its specific type (e.g., whether it is visual, physical, auditory, etc.). “Indirect” effects to historic properties are those caused by the undertaking that are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable (see *NPCA v Semonite*, USCA Case #18-5179). The effects may include not only physical changes to the character or materials of the historic property, but also visual, atmospheric or audible elements (see 36 CFR 800.5)

Therefore, the renewed lease of State lands and the continued military training on both the State and the adjacent Federally-owned parcels can be reasonably foreseeable to cause direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects on historic properties. **The EIS and any subsequent lease should include provisions for potential changes to types, location and timing of training actions to reduce physical, visual, atmospheric and audible effects on the historic properties, cultural resources and the community.**

5. **Applicability of the State Conservation District and City & County Preservation District**

**Statutes:** The EISPN states that the Army leases and uses on State owned lands pre-date the codification of the State Land Use District (SLUD) classification system. Under the Conservation District statute, (HRS Chapter 183C and its implementing rule, HAR Chapter 13-5 for Conservation District), lawful use of lands established prior to October 1, 1964, are considered nonconforming. Therefore, the State-owned land under lease to the Army is not currently subject to the land use rules of the Conservation District.

**The EIS should clearly outline the purpose and allowed uses of the State Conservation District and the City Preservation District, and describe how both the Army and the State & City agencies will ensure management of the lands in order to comply with and further the goals of the Conservation and Preservation Districts.** The EIS should describe this provision and steps to implement it in the proposed action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Historic Hawai'i Foundation looks forward to continuing consultation to resolve issues.

Very truly yours,



Kiersten Faulkner, AICP  
Executive Director

Copies via email:

G70: Jeff Merz [ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design]

# Honolulu Council, Navy League of the US

Please see attached letter.





## Honolulu Council

Navy League of the United States

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August 24, 2021

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii  
Attn: Public Affairs Office  
Bldg. 107, Room 221  
745 Wright Avenue  
Wheeler Army Airfield, HI

Subject: Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) for Army Training Land Retention, Scoping Comments

The Honolulu Council of the Navy League of the United States (the "Council") supports the requirements of the United States Army and all other military services to be able to conduct field training on O'ahu. The Council recognizes the importance of Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMA) in satisfying those training requirements.

By maintaining these training requirements, and being able to conduct them on O'ahu, the Council understands that the security of the United States and of the State of Hawai'i are maintained and enhanced, as well as the security of the entire Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, the Council appreciates how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, and how the Army has conducted sustained environmental stewardship of KTA, Poamoho, and MMA to date.

The Council has reviewed the subject EISPN, and appreciates the Army's community engagement and solicitation of comments and suggestions for the scope of the forthcoming EIS. Please include the Council as a stakeholder in the EIS process. The following areas are of particular interest to the Council, and we ask that you include in the scope of the EIS analyses of the following:

1. Impacts of existing environmental custodial programs conducted by the Army that affect these areas, and the potential impact of ending the Army's custodial role in the scenarios analyzed.
2. Impacts on military readiness (including Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Hawai'i National Guard units) to perform missions vital to the security of the United States, the State of Hawai'i, and the region, under each of the scenarios analyzed.
3. Cost impacts to taxpayers for units stationed in Hawai'i to travel to different training areas, whether within Hawai'i or outside the State, in order to conduct required training in the event that the Army loses access to training areas under the scenarios analyzed.
4. Potential for relocation of military units based in Hawai'i to bases outside of the State, in the event that these lands are not retained by the Army, in order to maintain operational readiness.



## Honolulu Council

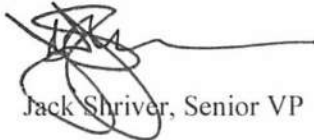
Navy League of the United States

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5. Impacts to the National, State, and regional security if these units are relocated out of State.
6. Impacts to the State economy if these units are relocated out of State.

Mahalo for your consideration. For future communications, please contact the Honolulu Council of the Navy League of the United States at the addresses and phone numbers listed below, or via email at [president@navyleaguehonolulu.org](mailto:president@navyleaguehonolulu.org).

Very Respectfully,



Jack Shriver, Senior VP

# Hui Malama ‘O Makua

See attached comments,

**From:** William [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 23:16  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua EIS scoping comments  
**Attachments:** [Makua EIS comments August 31, 2021.docx](#)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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See attached comments,

August 31, 2021

<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OAHUEIS>  
[usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

To whom it may concern,

The comments that follow are directed to the request for scoping comments relative to the proposed retention of State Land at Makua Military Reservation:

The Proposed action of conducting a Programmatic just for Makua is inconsistent with the EIS(s) the other actions and no justification is offered as to why Makua MMR is being singled out and the action proposed is prejudicial and unreasonable.

The notices for the proposed action at Makua MMR is purposefully misleading causing any reasonable person to conclude that a full EIS is being conducted for all Oahu training areas. Reference Army notices given in the Federal Register, Army notice of intent dated 7/23, 2021, August 6, 2021 (Amended notice), August 10, 2021. The only written reference to a Programmatic EIS being proposed for Makua MMR is listed in a fact sheet on the Army's website. Further adding confusion is the July Stars and Stripes article which simply mentions EIS for all Oahu training areas. A Star Advertiser editorial on August 9, 2021 and article on August 11, 2021 continues this confusion by mentioning only an EIS for training areas on Oahu and not highlighting the Army's intent to only conduct a PEIS for Makua MMR. This makes commenting on either a PEIS or EIS purposefully confusing. The level of analysis of each option is clearly different with an EIS being substantively greater in depth and a more accurate review of potential impacts. This proposed course of action is a violation of NEPA and HEPA both in the letter and the spirit of the law!

The proposed action for Makua MMR is either to retain the State Land 1) Full Retention, 2) Modified Retention, 3) Minimum Retention and access, or 4) no alternative action. The alternative 4) no action is certainly already decided because it cannot meet the purpose of retaining the lands for training. This appears to be a predetermined outcome. I suggest three additional alternatives to be considered for this proposed action to be taken seriously. 1)

Combine live fire training and other non-live fire training at Schofield, Kahuku, and KTA.

2) analyze conducting training out of State. 3) train at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, where the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and others conducted a training exercise called Forager 21, where Army troops are expected to deploy "getting out of North Carolina to anywhere in the world in 18 hours for a direct delivery". In this exercise Maj, Joe Fritze was quoted in an August 3, 2021, Honolulu Advertiser article, after completing their successful deployment to Guam. An 8000 mile deployment that bypassed Hawaii Based troops.

If an environmental study is conducted at Makua MMR, it should be a full EIS not a PEIS. It should not include information that from the outdated Stryker EIS for several reasons one, the training is different and Island-hopping training has not been provided for the public to comment on, Two the information is outdated as required by the Hawaii State Supreme Court rulings on old EISs. In addition, this approach does not fit with HEPA's prohibition on Phasing.

Also, in accordance with HEPA the Army needs to conduct A Kapaakai analysis for every State permit it is required to obtain inclusive of CDUP, Article XII Sec. 7 Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights and Practices, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act which includes Native Hawaiian and our need to repair

Shrines and religious structures and Makua MMR as we have been prevented from practicing in past requests.

Finally, no action should be taken until the entire MMR has been surveyed for surface and subsurface cultural and religious sites. I know based up information provided in previous environment documents that close to 35% has not been surveyed.

I will be looking forward to verify that our scoping comments have been seriously considered and acted upon. Mahalo.

Me Ke Aloha,

Melva N. Aila  
William J. Aila Jr.  
On behalf of Hui Malama 'O Makua

Ailaw001@hawaii.rr.com

## KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance

Aloha kākou,

Please see the attached comment from KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance on your proposal to retain "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Thank you, Shelley

**From:** [Shelley Muneoka](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] KAHEA comment on O'ahu ATLR EIS Scoping  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 21:01:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [KAHEA Army Lease EIS Scoping Aug21.pdf](#)

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Aloha kākou,

Please see the attached comment from KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance on your proposal to retain "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Thank you,  
Shelley





August 31, 2021

To whom it may concern:

The following comment is submitted on behalf of KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance. Founded in 2000, we are a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 10,000 supporters working to improve the quality of life Hawai'i's people and future generations through the revitalization and protection of Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural resources.

PROTECTING

NATIVE HAWAIIAN

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL

RIGHTS AND OUR FRAGILE

ENVIRONMENT

By now you have received 362 submissions of a form letter we drafted to help increase the engagement and access to the opaque EIS process. Please note that the text of those submissions is editable and should not be assumed to be identical, even if they have the same e-mail subject line. Please do not discount the importance of these submissions as they are an indication of the level of interest in this issue and points to the barriers people are experiencing to meaningfully engage with your process. We would like to document here some of the technical barriers we encountered in trying to submit a comment for this EIS scoping:

- The public was not able to access all materials for the entire duration of the 40-day comment period as there were multiple occasions that the project website was down. Luckily I had written down the contact e-mail from the site when it was up and so I was able to notify the Army of the outage. However, it is plausible that other people did not have the e-mail address and were not able to submit a comment or notify the Army of the problem. While I appreciate that in reply a representative from the Army, as well as the contractor G70 sent me a direct link to the webform, this is not a remedy for the unknown people who were not able to access the website outright.

- On an earlier occasion (8/16/21) when the project website was up, the link to the webform was not working.

KAHEA firmly opposes the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. We support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternative 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered, and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training

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[kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com)

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*KAHEA: the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. KAHEA translates to English as "the call."*

contributes to each.

Though your scoping process is not directly asking the community, “How has the military occupation of these lands impacted you?” that is in fact the question that many of the powerful testimonies have answered. Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you directly the impact your long-term occupation of these lands has had on O’ahu residents and on Native Hawaiians particularly. Resist the temptation to rely solely on professional opinions by being sure to recognize the broader community as the true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Honor the testimonies offered thus far by including them in your analysis to measure impact; do not dismiss them because they do not answer your question about scope.

Many of the comments have spanned time and space and your EIS should follow suit. Start first by looking at historical harms that will continue with a growing cumulative impact should the Army retain these lands. These harms include, but are not limited to:

- evictions/blocked access, burial desecration, intentional bombing of community and cultural sites, irreparable pollution of lands and waters with toxins and/or UXOs, destruction of native habitat with impact to rare plants and animals and perhaps hardest to measure, impacts on practices and connections to places from which we are cut off.

Then you need to look at current impacts.

- After being kept from meaningful relationships with these places for 3 generations (nearly 60 years), your analysis should include the pain of displaced k̄naka longing to connect. We are a part of the environment and our bereavement is a significant impact that should be considered.
- The 2020 Census found that there are now over 1 million people on O’ahu. Please investigate the impact to our food insecurity caused by not being able to grow food on the 6,300 acres you seek to retain. We currently import 85% of our food -- how has the decision to bomb these lands, instead of planting on them, impacted our ability to feed ourselves?
- Look at the way the COLA and housing allowances impact our housing market and the resulting houselessness crisis here. The median home price on O’ahu is now over \$1 million, please investigate how the US Army presence is contributing to that problem.
- In Hawaiian we have a saying, “Hāhai ka ua i ka ulu lā’au,” which means, “The rain follows the forest”. How has the denuding of these lands from bombing, burning, traversing and other training activities impacted rainfall and therefore the recharge of our aquifers? Particularly consider the weight of this as the global climate warms and changes.
- As the climate crisis intensifies, how has the US Army use of these lands impacted sensitive habitats and the unique plants and animals that live there?
- What is the impact of incessant training noise on the quality of life for O’ahu residents? Or the traffic caused by military convoys? Or criminal behavior (particularly drunk driving, public intoxication, domestic violence, violence against women, bar fights, etc.)

Looking to the future, an analysis should be completed of what will be foregone if the Army retains these lands.

- Please study the impact of maintaining the status quo into the future. What will O’ahu look like in 65 years?

- What will cultural practices and relationships to these places look like after 130 years of limited access?
- How will you measure the intergenerational trauma and loss that will result from the retention of these lands?

Turning now to the alternatives laid out in your project overview, please add alternatives that include the following:

1) Diplomacy with the perceived enemies of the state that require a USINDOPACOM theater strategy. Engaging with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation would foreclose the need for the USARHAW missions.

2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a strategy for the USARHAW mission of contributing to counterattacks. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies.

3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternatives and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

4) Restoration of an independent Kingdom of Hawai'i and de-occupation of Hawai'i lands. These twinned goals would set defense responsibilities before the new, independent government of Hawai'i and remove the onus of these concerns from the U.S. and its military, therefore removing the purpose and need for O'ahu lands for the Military.

With a long and painful history of broken promises (like the one made to evicted Mākua residents that they'd be allowed to return home after the end of WWII), the return of these lands is a concrete thing the Army can do to begin to repair its relationship with the local community. If you allow these leases to lapse, you will still control 11,000+ acres of Hawaiian land at these 3 training sites. While it may be an inconvenience to your activities, the community has been more-than-inconvenienced by your occupation of these lands for 3 generations and it is time to shift some of that burden.

Instead of doggedly pursuing the current path of retaining these lands, we encourage you to genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that will lead to the return these lands to those who love them. The return of these 'āina are long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback!

# Kahuku Community Association Board

To whom it may concern: As an organization that loves Hawai'i and her people, the Kahuku Community Association is firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. We support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered, and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each. Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered. Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include: 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises. 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long-term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies. 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for truly listening to the voices of the people who are asking for the No Action Alternative.

Kahuku Community Association Board  
Jessica dos Santos  
Maria Tejada  
Sunny Unga  
Oriana McCallum  
Melissa Kaonohi-Camit  
Atalina Pasi  
Sioneva Fotu

**From:** [Kahuku CommAssociation](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Support for the No Action Alternative for the State lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaioloa-Poamoho  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:12:47 PM

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To whom it may concern:

As an organization that loves Hawai‘i and her people, the Kahuku Community Association is firmly opposed to the Army’s retention of any of the “State” lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaioloa-Poamoho. We support the “No Action Alternative” that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered, and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai‘i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered.

Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

- 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises.
- 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long-term goal of securing Hawai‘i against the depredations of state enemies.
- 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of ‘āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for truly listening to the voices of the people who are asking for the No Action Alternative.

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## Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club

Makaha Hawaiian Civic club opposes any effort to renew leases.

## Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club

The Makaha Hawaiian civic club strongly opposes the renewing of the lease upon expiration in 2029. We believe the land should be returned tot he state of hawaii and placed under the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands for timely distribution to beneficiaries still on the waitlist for homes on the aina. President Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club



**From:** [Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua EIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 19:22:46 PM

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The Makaha Hawaiian civic club strongly opposes the renewing of the lease upon expiration in 2029. We believe the land should be returned tot he state of hawaii and placed under the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands for timely distribution to beneficiaries still on the waitlist for homes on the aina.

President Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club

## Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club

Thank you so much, Colonel Lu Faborito, Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club. We stand in the no position. We do not want the lease renewed. We thank you so much for your service and all that you have done. Same thing. We have military in our family. Dad is retired, so we can appreciate the work and the effort, but we would like no renewal of the lease. Thank you very much. Aloha, sis.

## Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action

Email To: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil) Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021 Our organization is opposed to any military lease renewals. Please make the statements below an official part of my testimony in opposition to military lease renewals. Mahalo Jim Albertini President of Malu Aina -- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) Visit us on the web at [Caution-www.malu-aina.org](http://Caution-www.malu-aina.org) It should be noted that 23,000-acres of Leased state lands are in light color on the right map below 84,000 acres at Pohakuloa in dark green (lower portion) on right map is seized lands via a Presidential executive order in 1964. Taken WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATION 23,000 acres in top green area of right side map below is Army purchased land from Parker Ranch in early 2000s for "The Stryker Maneuver Area." All the Stryker vehicles have been relocated from Hawaii to Washington State but the military is keep that land. Left map below shows Oahu military leased and seized lands. Right map is Pohakuloa. No Military Lease extensions Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands! NO to Army PTA and other military Lease Extension! STOP BOMBING POHAKULOA!

Here are a few issues that need to be addressed in any EIS on Pohakuloa and other military sites in Hawaii: Unexploded ordinance (UXO) clean up, Depleted Uranium and other toxic contamination of air, land and ground water, invasive species, cultural sites and the cultural significance of Pohakuloa itself and other areas. The military controls nearly 133,000-acres at Pohakuloa. 23,000 acres of this is leased from the state for \$1 total for 65 years –1964- 2029. These so called "ceded lands" are crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom before the U.S. overthrow of the Hawaiian government in 1893. These lands are in the ahupua'a of Humu'ula (crown), Kaohe and Pu'uana'hulu (government lands). Besides the 23,000 acres of leased lands at PTA, 758 acres were obtained by an executive order of Governor Samuel Wilder King in 1956 and 84,000 acres by a Presidential Executive Order of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. These lands by executive order were turned over to the US military without any compensation. More recently, in the early 2000s, an additional 23,000 acres of land near Waiki'i Ranch was purchased by the military from Parker Ranch for the Stryker Maneuver area. But the Strykers are no longer in Hawaii. They are in Washington state. But guess what the Military is keeping the 23,000-acres Stryker area with no Strykers. Surprise, Surprise.

Our organization, Malu Aina has documented 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii Island alone, totaling more than 250,000-acres that are in need of clean up. The estimated clean up is in the Billions of dollars. I am the co-author of the book -"The Dark Side of Paradise" about the military presence in Hawaii. It documents many of the impacts of life under the gun of US militarism throughout all Hawaii. Make that book an official part of the record. It is available in all Hawaii libraries. A digitized version will be available on [malu-aina.org](http://malu-aina.org) shortly.

It's long past time for the US military to Quit Hawaii. It's not just an issue of no further military leases. It's time for the illegal US military occupation of Hawaii to end. But please clean up your mess before you go. Aloha Jim Albertini-- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) Visit us on the web at [Caution-www.malu-aina.org](http://Caution-www.malu-aina.org) To all parties involved with the Aug. 24, 2021 Annual Review meeting and military lease renewals: I request that this statement be made an official part of the meeting record. Email sent 8/25/21 This is a follow up to my question at the Aug. 24th Pohakuloa 106 consultation meeting concerning how many archeological sites at the 133,000-acre PTA are designated as He'iau or shrines? The answer provided was 18 shrines.

In 1980, an archeological survey on Kaho'olawe found 87 he'iau and shrines and I believe more have been found since then but I don't have access to that data. Kaho'olawe is 28,000-acres nearly 5 times smaller than Pohakuloa at 133,000-acres. It must also be noted, that at the time of western contact Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island) had the largest population of any of the islands. It is hard to believe that in a place so special (Po-haku-loa - the land of the Night of Long Prayer) located between Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Hualalai that ONLY 18 shrines (0) He'iau have been found. Let me repeat: that's nearly 5 times LESS than on Kaho'olawe when PTA is nearly 5 times larger with the largest population of any Hawaiian island at the time of western contact. It just doesn't make sense. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. What is implied is that there is a cultural cover up going on to facilitate continued bombing (THE MISSION). Everything is subservient to THE MISSION. Cultural surveys, concern for the health and safety of Hawaii residents, visitors, and even the military's own troops. EVERYTHING! THE MISSION Trumps all! The US military has controlled Pohakuloa for more than 75 years. If you haven't done a complete survey of cultural sites, it is your fault. No more excuses. Claims of no money ring hollow. The US spends trillions on war, abandoned billions of dollars on weaponry in Afghanistan, yet claims there is no money to do cultural surveys on its bases or clean up the many messes left at present and former military sites in Hawaii and elsewhere, including 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii island alone. In addition to the claims of "No money to do surveys," the military simply lies or withholds the truth. How many live rounds are fired annually at PTA? Where is a list and numbers of all types of rounds fired? What about the years of denial about Depleted Uranium (DU) ever being used in Hawaii? Now documented on Oahu at Schofield, likely at Makua Valley, here at Pohakuloa, and possibly on Kaho'olawe and other sites. What about the Army's lie involving the lease of public lands in the Waiakea Forest Reserve in the 1960s off Stainback highway in Ola'a above Hilo to do what was said to be "Weather Testing" when in fact the Army was testing Chemical and Biological weapons in Hilo's watershed, including Sarin nerve gas that kills at 1/50 of a drop? And the list goes on and on. And the lies continue, including about the serious health problems associated with inhaling DU oxide particles which can be carried long distances in the wind when DU metal is hit with high explosives and burned. The Military run annual Pohakuloa review meeting on Aug. 24th was a sham, a mere required legal formality. We are not fooled. It is time for all live-fire at Pohakuloa to be stopped immediately. No renewal of leased lands. Clean up your mess and return all Hawaiian lands to Hawaiian hands. Like it was long overdue for the US to leave Afghanistan after 20 years of occupation, it is long past time for the US to leave Hawaii after 128 years of illegal military occupation. Jim Albertini PS The military even made the claim that they can't use drones to look for cultural sites because the drones have Chinese parts and it may compromise security, flying over the 50,000 acre bombed out impact area at Pohakuloa. Can you believe that desperate and absurd claim? -- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) Visit us on the web at [Caution-www.malu-aina.org](http://Caution-www.malu-aina.org)

Stop Hawaii Military Madness! Newest versions: "Sentinel Landscape" & Reaper Drones Reaper Drone Hawaii is already one of the most militarized (and military poisoned) places on the planet. There are more than 100 active US military installations in Hawaii. On Hawaii Island alone, there are at least 57 present and former US military sites on land (and near shore waters) totaling more than 250,000-acres in need of military clean up – everything from unexploded ordnance, to military chemical and biological weapons, Depleted Uranium (DU) radiation, etc. etc. After more than \$400 million was spent to clean up Kaho'olawe, the island is still littered with unexploded ordnance on land and in near shore waters. Pearl Harbor, once Hawaii's fish breeding center, is now a military polluted Superfund site. Nuclear waste has been discharged into Pearl Harbor and more than 2000 fifty-five gallon drums of military nuclear waste have been dumped off Oahu's southern shores. First came Army Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB). Then Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI): [Caution-https://www.repi.mil](http://Caution-https://www.repi.mil) Now it's Sentinel Landscape – all involve co-opting of environmentalism in the service of empire and the US war machine. Sentinel Landscape is really the creation of modern day buffer-zone "land moats" around the castles of US militarism. Those who get to lease the castle "land moats" on Oahu and Kauai have been mainly chemical GMO biotech Fortune 500 seed corporations. Whatever farm crops and animals raised near a toxic stew base like Pohakuloa, will likely carry the toxins of the base. A 10-mile radius "Sentinel Landscape" buffer zone is being proposed for Pohakuloa. It is said that most or all of Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island could be designated as a Sentinel Landscape in service of US militarism. If that is not enough to ponder, please be advised that Covert "Military Special Ops" Assassination Training is also taking place OUTSIDE of military bases, on public and private lands – parks, beaches, and near shore waters on all Hawaiian islands. In some cases, tourists and local residents unknowingly, are being used as props in that training. See [Caution-http://malu-aina.org/?p=583](http://Caution-http://malu-aina.org/?p=583) And keep an eye out for the six new "Reaper" assassination drones that will soon be coming to Hawaii.

[Caution-https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/03/24/hawaii-news/6-reaper-drones-will-be-based-on-oahu/?utm\\_source=ground.news&utm\\_medium=referral](http://Caution-https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/03/24/hawaii-news/6-reaper-drones-will-be-based-on-oahu/?utm_source=ground.news&utm_medium=referral) See news article here on Sentinel Landscape: [Caution-https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2021/08/18/hawaii-news/council-members-hear-pitch-on-sentinel-landscape-designation/](http://Caution-https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2021/08/18/hawaii-news/council-members-hear-pitch-on-sentinel-landscape-designation/) See the 2 min video on Sentinel Landscape here [Caution-https://sentinellandscapes.org/](http://Caution-https://sentinellandscapes.org/) De-Militarize & De-Occupy Hawaii Now!! 1. Mourn all victims of violence. 2. Reject violence & war as solutions. 3. Defend civil liberties. 4. Oppose all discrimination, anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, anti-Hawaiian, anti-Black, anti-Asian, etc. 5. Seek peace through peaceful means and work for justice in Hawai'i and around the world. Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown), Hawaii 96760 Phone (808) 966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) to receive our posts. For more information [Caution-www.malu-aina.org](http://Caution-www.malu-aina.org) August 27, 2021 Hilo Peace Vigil leaflet – week 1039– Fridays 3:30-5PM downtown Post Office-- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) Visit us on the web at [Caution-www.malu-aina.org](http://Caution-www.malu-aina.org)

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**From:** Jim Albertini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 8:58 PM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposed to any Army lease renewals

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Emailed

To: usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil >

Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021

Our organization is opposed to any military lease renewals . Please make the statements below an official part of my testimony in opposition to military lease renewals. Mahalo.

Jim Albertini

President of Malu Aina

-- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org < Caution-mailto:ja@malu-aina.org > Visit us on the web at Caution-www.malu-aina.org < Caution-http://www.malu-aina.org >

It should be noted that 23,000-acres of Leased state lands are in light color on the right map below

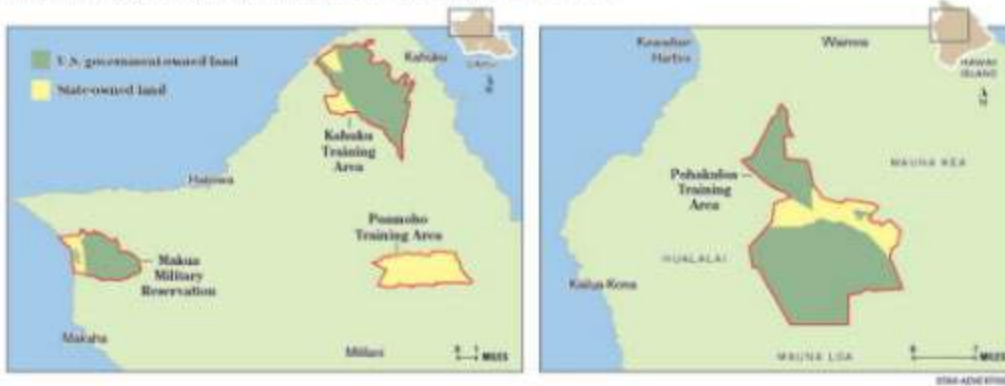
84,000 acres at Pohakuloa in dark green (lower portion) on right map is seized lands via a Presidential executive order in 1964. Taken WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATION.

23,000 acres in top green area of right side map below is Army purchased land from Parker Ranch in early 2000s for "The Stryker Maneuver Area." All the Stryker vehicles have been relocated from Hawaii to Washington State but the military is keep that land.

Left map below shows Oahu military leased and seized lands. Right map is Pohakuloa.

#### MILITARY TRAINING AREAS IN HAWAII

The Army is preparing environmental impact statements for leasing up to 6,300 acres of state-owned leased land on Oahu and 23,000 acres in the middle of Pohakuloa on Hawaii island. Military officials say the training areas are critical for maintaining readiness in the Pacific.



**No Military Lease extensions**

## Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands!



**NO to Army PTA and other military Lease Extension!**  
**STOP BOMBING POHAKULOLOA!**

Here are a few issues that need to be addressed in any EIS on Pohakuloa and other military sites in Hawaii: Unexploded ordnance (UXO) clean up, Depleted Uranium and other toxic contamination of air, land and ground water, invasive species, cultural sites and the cultural significance of Pohakuloa itself and other areas. The military controls nearly 133,000-acres at Pohakuloa. 23,000 acres of this is leased from the state for \$1 total for 65 years –1964- 2029. These so called “ceded lands” are crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom before the U.S. overthrow of the Hawaiian government in 1893. These lands are in the ahupua’a of Humu’ula (crown), Kaohe and Pu’uanahulu (government lands). Besides the 23,000 acres of leased lands at PTA, 758 acres were obtained by an executive order of Governor Samuel Wilder King in 1956 and 84,000 acres by a Presidential Executive Order of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. These lands by executive order were turned over to the US military without any compensation. More recently, in the early 2000s, an additional 23,000 acres of land near Waiki’i Ranch was purchased by the military from Parker



Ranch for the Stryker Maneuver area. But the Strykers are no longer in Hawaii. They are in Washington state. But guess what the Military is keeping the 23,000-acres Stryker area with no Strykers. Surprise, Surprise.

Our organization, Malu Aina has documented 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii Island alone, totaling more than 250,000-acres that are in need of clean up. The estimated clean up is in the Billions of dollars. I am the co-author of the book -"The Dark Side of Paradise" about the military presence in Hawaii. It documents many of the impacts of life under the gun of US militarism throughout all Hawaii. Make that book an official part of the record. It is available in all Hawaii libraries. A digitized version will be available on malu-aina-org shortly.

It's long past time for the US military to Quit Hawaii. It's not just an issue of no further military leases. It's time for the illegal US military occupation of Hawaii to end. But please clean up your mess before you go. Aloha.

Jim Albertini

-- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760  
Phone 808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org < Caution-mailto:ja@malu-aina.org > Visit us on the web at Caution-  
www.malu-aina.org < Caution-http://www.malu-aina.org >

To all parties involved with the Aug. 24, 2021 Annual Review meeting and military lease renewals: I request that this statement be made an official part of the meeting record. Email sent 8/25/21

This is a follow up to my question at the Aug. 24th Pohakuloa 106 consultation meeting concerning how many archeological sites at the 133,000-acre PTA are designated as He'iau or shrines? The answer provided was 18 shrines.



In 1980, an archeological survey on Kaho'olawe found 87 he'iau and shrines and I believe more have been found since then but I don't have access to that data. Kaho'olawe is 28,000-acres nearly 5 times smaller than Pohakuloa at 133,000-acres. It must also be noted, that at the time of western contact Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island) had the largest population of any of the islands. It is hard to believe that in a place so special (Po-haku-loa - the land of the Night of Long Prayer) located between Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Hualalai that ONLY 18 shrines (0) He'iau have been found. Let me repeat: that's nearly 5 times LESS than on Kaho'olawe when PTA is nearly 5 times larger with the largest population of any Hawaiian island at the time of western contact. It just doesn't make sense. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. What is implied is that there is a cultural cover up going on to facilitate continued bombing (THE MISSION). Everything is subservient to THE MISSION. Cultural surveys, concern for the health and safety of Hawaii residents, visitors, and even the military's own troops. EVERYTHING! THE MISSION Trumps all!

The US military has controlled Pohakuloa for more than 75 years. If you haven't done a complete survey of cultural sites, it is your fault. No more excuses. Claims of no money ring hollow. The US spends trillions on war, abandoned billions of dollars on weaponry in Afghanistan, yet claims there is no money to do cultural surveys on its bases or clean up the many messes left at present and former military sites in Hawaii and elsewhere, including 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii island alone. In addition to the claims of "No money to do surveys," the military simply lies or withholds the truth. How many live rounds are fired annually at PTA? Where is a list and numbers of all types of rounds fired? What about the years of denial about Depleted Uranium (DU) ever being used in Hawaii? Now documented on Oahu at Schofield, likely at Makua Valley, here at Pohakuloa, and possibly on Kaho'olawe and other sites. What about the Army's lie involving the lease of public lands in the Waiakea Forest Reserve in the 1960s off Stainback highway in Ola'a above Hilo to do what was said to be "Weather Testing" when in fact the Army was testing Chemical and Biological

weapons in Hilo's watershed, including Sarin nerve gas that kills at 1/50 of a drop? And the list goes on and on. And the lies continue, including about the serious health problems associated with inhaling DU oxide particles which can be carried long distances in the wind when DU metal is hit with high explosives and burned.

The Military run annual Pohakuloa review meeting on Aug. 24th was a sham, a mere required legal formality. We are not fooled. It is time for all live-fire at Pohakuloa to be stopped immediately. No renewal of leased lands. Clean up your mess and return all Hawaiian lands to Hawaiian hands. Like it was long overdue for the US to leave Afghanistan after 20 years of occupation, it is long past time for the US to leave Hawaii after 128 years of illegal military occupation.

Jim Albertini

PS The military even made the claim that they can't use drones to look for cultural sites because the drones have Chinese parts and it may compromise security, flying over the 50,000 acre bombed out impact area at Pohakuloa. Can you believe that desperate and absurd claim?

--

Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760

Phone 808-966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) < Caution-mailto:ja@malu-aina.org > Visit us on the web at Caution-[www.malu-aina.org](http://www.malu-aina.org) < Caution-http://www.malu-aina.org >

# Stop Hawaii Military Madness!

**Newest versions: "Sentinel Landscape" & Reaper Drones**



Reaper Drone

Hawaii is already one of the most militarized (and military poisoned) places on the planet. There are more than 100 active US military installations in Hawaii. On Hawaii Island alone, there are at least 57 present and former US military sites on land (and near shore waters) totaling more than 250,000-acres in need of military clean up – everything from unexploded ordnance, to military chemical and biological weapons, Depleted Uranium (DU) radiation, etc. etc. After more than \$400 million was spent to clean up Kaho'olawe, the island is still littered with unexploded ordnance on land and in near shore waters. Pearl Harbor, once Hawaii's fish breeding center, is now a military polluted Superfund site. Nuclear waste has

been discharged into Pearl Harbor and more than 2000 fifty-five gallon drums of military nuclear waste have been dumped off Oahu's southern shores.

First came Army Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB). Then Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI): Caution-<https://www.repi.mil/> < Caution-<https://www.repi.mil/> > Now it's Sentinel Landscape – all involve co-opting of environmentalism in the service of empire and the US war machine. Sentinel Landscape is really the creation of modern day buffer-zone “land moats” around the castles of US militarism. Those who get to lease the castle “land moats” on Oahu and Kauai have been mainly chemical GMO biotech Fortune 500 seed corporations. Whatever farm crops and animals raised near a toxic stew base like Pohakuloa, will likely carry the toxins of the base. A 10-mile radius “Sentinel Landscape” buffer zone is being proposed for Pohakuloa. It is said that most or all of Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island could be designated as a Sentinel Landscape in service of US militarism.

If that is not enough to ponder, please be advised that Covert “Military Special Ops” Assassination Training is also taking place OUTSIDE of military bases, on public and private lands – parks, beaches, and near shore waters on all Hawaiian islands. In some cases, tourists and local residents unknowingly, are being used as props in that training. See Caution-<http://malu-aina.org/?p=5833> < Caution-<http://malu-aina.org/?p=5833> > And keep an eye out for the six new “Reaper” assassination drones that will soon be coming to Hawaii. Caution-<https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2021/08/18/hawaii-news/council-members-hear-pitch-on-sentinel-landscape-designation/> See the 2 min video on Sentinel Landscape here Caution-<https://sentinellandscapes.org/> < Caution-<https://sentinellandscapes.org/> >

## De-Militarize & De-Occupy Hawaii Now!

1. Mourn all victims of violence. 2. Reject violence & war as solutions. 3. Defend civil liberties.
4. Oppose all discrimination, anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, anti-Hawaiian, anti-Black, anti-Asian, etc.
5. Seek peace through peaceful means and work for justice in Hawai'i and around the world.

Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown), Hawaii 96760

Phone (808) 966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) < Caution-<mailto:ja@malu-aina.org> > to receive our posts. For more information Caution-[www.malu-aina.org](http://www.malu-aina.org) < Caution-[http://www.malu-aina.org/](http://www.malu-aina.org) >

August 27, 2021 Hilo Peace Vigil leaflet – week 1039– Fridays 3:30-5PM downtown Post Office

-- Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org) < Caution-<mailto:ja@malu-aina.org> > Visit us on the web at Caution-[www.malu-aina.org](http://www.malu-aina.org) < Caution-<http://www.malu-aina.org> >





Chamber of Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii  
c/o Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444  
Email: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

**RE: Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS - Scoping**

Aloha,

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the U.S. Army to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze its proposal to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of leased state-owned land on Oahu to support continued military training.

The state-owned lands include 1,170 acres at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), 4,370 acres at Poamoho Training Area and 760 acres at Makua Military Reservation (MMR) that are used by Army units and others, including the Marine Corps and the Hawaii Army National Guard. The state-owned lands have been leased by the Army since 1964, and the leases will expire in 2029. The MAC supports the ability of the Army and other services including the Hawaii National Guard and the Marines to train both on Oahu as well as Pohakuloa Training Area.

In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, the Chamber underscores that the preceding EIS and community engagement are vital to support military readiness as it supports all Hawaii-based military actions and across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 to specifically advocate on behalf of Hawaii's military as it is the second economic driver for the State of Hawaii, comprised of business leaders, state and local officials, non-profit organizations, community leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers to advocate and liaison with the military commands.

Sincerely,

Jason Chung  
Vice President, Military Affairs Council  
Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

## Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe

Responding to the article in the Star Advertiser (August 1, 2021) regarding lease extensions and military training on Oahu, and Hawaii Island. Your public comment is on August 10 and 11th between 6-9pm Leilehua Golf Course on OAHU. What exactly are we commenting on? Your reference site Caution-<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS> does not have anything there, but from the address given, apparently it is part of some Environmental Impact Statement. A lot of talk about Pohakuloa Training Area and land swap suggestions. Why is this meeting being NOT being held on Hawaii Island too, in fact it should be statewide. You talk of bases from Pacific Missile Range (Kauai) to Pohakuloa (Hawaii Island). You speak as if the people of Hawaii want to be the FIRST target protection for the Continental United States. When you speak of an EIS, you would be remiss to not notice that the people of Hawaii are the environment, and yes we care about our families and our future. You need to fix your internet addressing and information access ASAP. Suggestion: CHANGE your meetings dates and include the outer islands. August 4th,

2021 Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson

Na Kupuna Moku O

Keawe

PO Box 951

Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760

808

938-9994

**From:** [Hank Hawaiian](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#); [M. Kalani Souza](#); [Sofronio J. Estores](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] public comments Aug 10,11 2021 / Outraged  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 23:20:54 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Responding to the article in the Star Advertiser (August 1, 2021) regarding lease extensions and military training on Oahu, and Hawaii Island. Your public comment is on August 10 and 11th between 6-9pm Leilehua Golf Course on OAHU. What exactly are we commenting on? Your reference site Caution-  
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When you speak of an EIS, you would be remiss to not notice that the people of Hawaii are the environment, and yes we care about our families and our future.

You need to fix your internet addressing and information access ASAP.

Suggestion: CHANGE your meetings dates and include the outer islands.

August 4th, 2021                      Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson  
   Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe  
   PO Box 951  
   Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760  
   808 938-9994

# Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe

Hanalei Fergerstrom

September 30, 2021 Na Kupuna Moku O

Keawe P.O. Box 951 Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760 808 938-9994 hankhawaiian@yahoo.com ARMY

TRAINING LAND RETENTION OF STATE LANDS AT KAHUKU TRAINING AREA, KAWAILOA-POAMOHO TRAINING AREA, AND MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION, ISLAND OF OAHU. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA LACKS ANY LAWFUL AUTHORITY TO ASSERT IT'S JURISDICTION OVER THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOREIGN NATION STATE OF THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM. THERE IS NO TREATY OF ANNEXATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM. 31 Congo Rec. 5,975 (1898). He thus characterized the effort to annex Hawaii by joint resolution after the defeat of the treaty as

"a deliberate attempt to do unlawfully that which can not be lawfully done." It is therefore the position of Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe that we continue in OPPOSITION to any and all attempts by the U.S. Military (Army) to retain any lands within the territorial boundaries of the Independent Nation State of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

spokesperson

// Hanalei Fergerstrom,

Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe

**From:** [Hank Hawaiian](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu ATLR EIS  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 23:28:05 PM

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Hanalei Fergerstrom  
Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe

September 30, 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

ARMY TRAINING LAND RETENTION OF STATE LANDS AT KAHUKU  
TRAINING AREA, KAWAIILOA-POAMOHU TRAINING AREA, AND  
MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION, ISLAND OF OAHU.

***THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA LACKS ANY LAWFUL AUTHORITY TO  
ASSERT IT'S JURISDICTION OVER THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED  
FOREIGN NATION STATE OF THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM.***

***THERE IS NO TREATY OF ANNEXATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM.***

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to annex Hawaii by joint resolution after the defeat of  
the treaty as

"a deliberate attempt to do unlawfully that which can not be  
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that we continue in OPPOSITION to any and all attempts by  
the U.S. Military (Army) to retain any lands within the

territorial boundaries of the Independent Nation State of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

// Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson

Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe

## Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island)

To whom it may concern: I am Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson for Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island) P.O. Box 951 Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760 808 938-9994 [Hankhawaiian@yahoo.com](mailto:Hankhawaiian@yahoo.com)  
I am writing with a request for a full printed copy of the proposal for the continued use of some 6,000 acres of land under the control of the US Army. I've check all of the site links you advised but what is not there is the actual EIS for this project. Please rush to me a full printed copy of this effort. We would like to respond properly but need more information. Perhaps an oversight....but Hawaii is one state and operations on one island directly affects those of us on the other islands. You do yourself a disservice by not including the outer islands in you request for comments. I am Hanalei Fergerstrom and serve as the spokesperson for the Kupuna of the island of Hawaii. Because of the great distances between districts and the lack of reliable internet you must send me hard copies ( prefer 6 copies as one per district). We would further request that the deadline for comments be extended for at least 60 days.  
I humbly await your documentation and response for the extension.  
Dated: July 29, 2021 // Hanalei Fergerstrom

**From:** [Hana Hou](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Need full printed copies of this EIS regarding continued use of lands on OAHU for military training  
**Date:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 16:48:36 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson for Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island)  
P.O. Box 951  
Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760  
808 938-9994  
[Hankhawaiian@yahoo.com](mailto:Hankhawaiian@yahoo.com)

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I am Hanalei Fergerstrom and serve as the spokesperson for the Kupuna of the island of Hawaii. Because of the great distances between districts and the lack of reliable internet you must send me hard copies ( prefer 6 copies as one per district). We would further request that the deadline for comments be extended for at least 60 days.

I humbly await your documentation and response for the extension.

Dated: July 29, 2021

// Hanalei Fergerstrom



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**From:** Hana Hou [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Need full printed copies of this EIS regarding continued use of lands on OAHU for military training

To whom it may concern:

I am Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson for Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island)



I am writing with a request for a full printed copy of the proposal for the continued use of some 6,000 acres of land under the control of the US Army. I've check all of the site links you advised but what is not there is the actual EIS for this project. Please rush to me a full printed copy of this effort. We would like to respond properly but need more information.

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I am Hanalei Fergerstrom and serve as the spokesperson for the Kupuna of the island of Hawaii. Because of the great distances between districts and the lack of reliable internet you must send me hard copies ( prefer 6 copies as one per district). We would further request that the deadline for comments be extended for at least 60 days.

I humbly await your documentation and response for the extension.

Dated: July 29, 2021

// Hanalei Fergerstrom

## Native Ecosystem Services

We do not support any renewal of lease by the US Army on Kahuku, Kawaihoa/Poamoho, or Makua. While working as an environmental army contractor on Schofield Barracks for 10 years, I have seen firsthand witnessed the negative environmental impacts that are regular in these training areas. From MRE trash scattered aground the forested lands, to soldiers' feces on trails, especially in KTA during and after the annual Lightning Forge training, munitions left on the ground for the public to run over or step on, wildfires that not only impact the trading ranges but adjacent forest reserves and residential areas and native species habitats, noise pollution by 24/7 live fire training, and their impacts on endangered and threatened species habitats like the fragile forests of Helemano/Poamoho. Again, Native Ecosystem Services, a native conservation organization based here on Oahu, strongly opposes the renewal of any and all of these lands for use by the United States military.

## Native Hawaii Chamber of Commerce

Question: Public information materials published by the Army and its consultants describing the Proposed Action uses the term “retain” lands. Is it the Army’s intention to consider-evaluate renewal/new lease agreements and acquisition of the fee simple interest in all or a portion these lands or some combination of both? “The U.S. Army intends to prepare an environmental impact statement, or EIS, to analyze its proposal to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of leased state-owned land on O‘ahu to support continued military training.” Thank you, Sydney Keli’ipuleole, Director, Native Hawaii Chamber of Commerce

**From:** [Sydney Keliipuleole](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Shannon H. Edie](#); [Ron Jarrett](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Training Land Retention, Island of Oahu - EIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:29:18 AM

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Question:

Public information materials published by the Army and it's consultants describing the Proposed Action uses the term "retain" lands. Is it the Army's intention to consider-evaluate renewal/new lease agreements and acquisition of the fee simple interest in all or a portion these lands or some combination of both?

*"The U.S. Army intends to prepare an environmental impact statement, or EIS, to analyze its proposal to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of leased state- owned land on O'ahu to support continued military training."*

Thank you,

Sydney Keli'ipuleole, Director, Native Hawaii Chamber of Commerce

## Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

Aloha, My name is Jacob Aki and I am submitting scoping comments on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) for the proposed Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR). NHCC's comments are attached in this email. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Mahalo, Jacob Aki | KAIWI'ULA STRATEGIES President & Owner

---

**From:** Jacob Aki <jacob@kaiwiula.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 19:47  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Kainoa Kaumeheiwa-Rego; Shannon H. Edie  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] O'ahu ATLR EIS Scoping Comment Submission  
**Attachments:** NHCC\_Final Comments\_01Sept2021.pdf

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha,

My name is Jacob Aki and I am submitting scoping comments on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) for the proposed Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR).

NHCC's comments are attached in this email.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Mahalo,

**Jacob Aki | KAIWI'ULA STRATEGIES**  
President & Owner

Email: [jacob@kaiwiula.com](mailto:jacob@kaiwiula.com) < Caution-mailto:jacob@kaiwiula.com >

Phone: [808-230-9071](tel:808-230-9071)

Website: [Caution-www.kaiwiula.com](http://www.kaiwiula.com) < Caution-http://www.kaiwiula.com/ >



**Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce**

**P.O. Box 597**

**Honolulu, HI 96809**

[www.nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org)

[nhccoahu@gmail.com](mailto:nhccoahu@gmail.com)

2021-2022 Directors

Shannon Edie, President  
Timmy Wailehua, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sean Spencer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
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Napali Woode, Treasurer  
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Kaponu Faitau  
Logan Freitas  
Napua Harbottle  
Claire Hughes  
Ron Jarrett  
Sydney Keli'ipuleole  
Kelea Levy  
Mike Rawlins

September 1, 2021

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

RE: Comments on the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kailua-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu

Aloha,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comments. Founded in 1974, and with over 200 members across the State of Hawai'i, the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) advocates on behalf of Native Hawaiian businesses and professionals.

NHCC has reviewed the proposed Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kailua-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu and proffers the following comments:

**Full, Modified or Minimum Retention Alternatives**

- Environmental Impact: The NHCC is deeply concerned about the state of the lands at each of these sites after years of military exercises thereupon. We request a thorough review of their current state and the potential impact of each of these alternatives, in terms of military exercises or initiatives, on KTA, Poamoho and MMR. In particular:
  - Ecological – Can you provide a detailed description of the ecological zones within each site and how these zones might be impacted depending on the alternative selected and the types of military exercises performed on these lands as well as any plans to maintain these zones within the impacted areas?
  - Hydrology – Similarly, can you provide a detailed description of the hydrology of each site and how water flow from each site might impact water use by those

connected to the same hydrological systems, depending on the alternative selected and the types of military exercises performed on these lands?

- **Cultural Impact:** The NHCC commends the Army on its working relationship with Native Hawaiians organizations to address the impact of military efforts on cultural resources in and around KTA, Poamoho and MMR. We request a careful review of the current inventory of cultural resources under the care of the Army and the potential impact of each of these alternatives, in terms of military exercises or initiatives, on these cultural resources.
- **Economic Impact:** The NHCC recognizes the significant economic contributions to our State and the surrounding communities at each of these sites. We request an intensive analysis of the economic impact of each of these alternatives on Hawai‘i’s economy as a whole, on the surrounding communities, on the workforce, and especially within the Native Hawaiian business community, including investment that has and will promote future economic growth and diversification. And at such time as lease rent is to be determined at fair market value appraisal must be performed; taking into account current State land use designation and or county zoning, and inclusive of cultural and environmental values.

### **No Retention Alternative**

- **Environmental Impact:** Should the No Retention Alternative be selected, the NHCC believes a thorough understanding of the military’s withdrawal on environmental resources and related community relationships should be thoroughly described for each of these sites. This description should minimally include a detailed review of past, present and future initiatives and community relationships supported by the Army within the Native Hawaiian community and the state at-large. We also request an assessment of the actions it would take to restore the land to a usable condition and any associated costs upon the military’s departure.
- **Cultural Impact:** Should the No Retention Alternative be selected, the NHCC believes a thorough understanding of the military’s withdrawal on cultural resources and related community relationships should be thoroughly described for each of these sites. This description should include an exhaustive review of past, present and future initiatives and relationships supported by the Army within the Native Hawaiian community and the state at-large.
- **Economic Impact:** Should the No Retention Alternative be selected, the NHCC believes a thorough understanding of the economic impact of this alternative should be described at a statewide, county and Native Hawaiian business community basis. This description



should at a minimum include a comprehensive review of past, present and future military investments into the State and the surrounding communities at each of these sites, within the Native Hawaiian business community, as well as a nexus between the military and jobs. We also request that an itemized list of crown lands and corresponding generated revenue be a part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. NHCC is hopeful that the above comments can be addressed and/or incorporated into the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O‘ahu. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [shannon@holomuaconsulting.com](mailto:shannon@holomuaconsulting.com).

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shannon Edie', with a stylized, flowing script.

Shannon Edie, President  
Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

# Ohana Ho'opakele

August 31, 2021 Comments from Ronald Fujiyoshi, representing Ohana

Ho'opakele Facts: · April, 1810, Kamehameha I uniting the Hawaiian Islands into one nation state. · In a treaty signed December 23, 1826, the United States formally recognized Hawaiian independence. · With the Constitution for the Hawaiian Kingdom 1840, the Hawaiian Kingdom became a constitutional monarchy. · November 28, 1843 Great Britain issued a formal joint declaration with France guaranteeing Hawaiian independence in the international arena. · 1843, United States follows recognizing Hawaiian Independence internationally. · 1848, The Hawaiian Kingdom passed The Great Mahele, the basis for land rights and an accepted system of land title. The Crown Lands were the private lands of the king. · May 16, 1854, Kamehameha III formally proclaimed the Hawaiian Kingdom as a Neutral State with its territorial jurisdiction extending one marine league (three miles) from the coasts of each of its islands. · January 17, 1893, the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom with the cooperation of US Military troops violating the treaty and beginning a state of War between the Hawaiian Kingdom and the USA. · August 12, 1898, the so-called annexation of Hawaii by the United States of America. · Date of an act to change the Government and Crown Lands in the Mahele into the Ceded Lands. · November 23, 1993, Public Law 103-150 signed by President Clinton includes the words: "Whereas the Republic of Hawaii also ceded 1,800,000 acres of crown, government and public lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii, without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii or their sovereign government;" · December 7, 8, 11, 2000, Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) hearings, Hague, Netherlands ruling in *Larsen v Hawaiian Kingdom*, The Arbitration Award was filed with the PCA on February 5, 2001. · Dr. Alfred M. deZayas, United Nations Independent Expert, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, wrote in a February 25, 2018 MEMORANDUM, "I have come to understand that the lawful political status of the Hawaiian Islands is that of a sovereign nation-state in continuity; but a nation-state that is under a strange form of occupation by the United States, resulting from an illegal military occupation and a fraudulent annexation." See letter to Hawaii's state judiciary. · November 10, 2020, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) letter to Governor Ige, State of Hawaii, "calls upon the State of Hawai'i and its County governments, as the proxy of the United States, which is in effective control of Hawaiian territory, to immediately comply with international humanitarian law while the United States continues its prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom since 1893." Among its recommendation is: "NLG also condemns the unlawful presence and maintenance of the United States Indo-Pacific Command with its 118 military sites throughout the Hawaiian Islands, which has caused the islands to be targeted for nuclear strike by North Korea, China and Russia." · February 7, 2021, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) Resolution on the US Occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Among its recommendations is: "IADL also condemns the unlawful presence and maintenance of the United States Indo-Pacific Command with its 118 military sites throughout the Hawaiian Islands." · July 18, 2021, the United Church of Christ passed at their General Synod, a resolution, "Encouraging to End 128 years of War between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom." Taking all these facts into consideration, your Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should include: 1. Proof that the land under these leases are: 1) not the private lands of the Mo'i of the Hawaiian Kingdom and can be leased by the State of Hawaii to the US Military. To show this, you need to show the original deed under the Mahele and the transactions in the Bureau of Conveyances that show the ownership of these lands. 2. Proof that the State of Hawaii is not using the laws of the United States of

America in its application to the residents and people of Hawaii.3. Proof that the state of War between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom is not in existence under international humanitarian law.4. Proof that the lands under these leases are not part of the “whereas” clause found in Public Law 103-150 as quoted above.5. A response to the statement made by Dr. Alfred M. deZayas, United Nations Independent Expert, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, wrote in a February 25, 2018 MEMORANDUM quoted above.6. A response to the similar statements made in the NLG and the IADL documents quoted above which condemns the unlawful presence and maintenance of the United States Indo-Pacific Command with its 118 military sites throughout the Hawaiian Islands. In conclusion, I want to go on record as recommending the alternative that states clearly, “The US Military should leave Hawaii.” These leases should not be extended. Mahalo for the opportunity to voice our opinions on record! Sincerely, Ronald S. Fujiyoshi, Treasurer Ohana Ho`opakele, a Hawaii Island Training PA Consulting Party to the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) Ohana Ho`opakele P.O. Box 5530 Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] My comments, representing Ohana Ho`opakele, on the US Army EIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 14:52:20 PM

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August 31, 2021

Comments from Ronald Fujiyoshi, representing Ohana Ho`opakele

Facts:

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2. Proof that the State of Hawaii is **not** using the laws of the United States of America in its application to the residents and people of Hawaii.
3. Proof that the state of War between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom is **not** in existence under international humanitarian law.
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In conclusion, I want to go on record as recommending the alternative that states clearly, "The US Military should leave Hawaii." These leases should **not** be extended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to voice our opinions on record!

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Fujiyoshi, Treasurer

Ohana Ho`opakele, a Hawaii Island Training PA Consulting Party to the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA)

Ohana Ho`opakele

P.O. Box 5530

Hilo, HI 96720

## Red Ridge, NC

August 13th, 2021 To Whom It May Concern: I am reaching out on behalf of my organization - Red Ridge, NC - to voice our concerns about the U.S. military presence on the island of O'ahu. RRNC has standing regarding this issue as we promote environmental protection and education in the U.S. Our organization is strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on Mākuā, Kahuka, and Wahiawā lands. Our environmental educators and scientists have voiced concern about the ecological and public impact of the continued military presence on the island, including: Noise pollution causing public impact through toxic stress Military leases on these lands can lead to Adverse Childhood Experiences caused by exposure to toxic stress due to noise pollution, which lead to poorer quality of life, and chronic diseases later in life. Disproportionate land distribution According to current data, the island is vastly disproportionately split between the local population and the military landmass. Renewed leases leading to ecological impact An extension of these leases will further damage the natural resources of the island, impacting the natural habitats of native Hawaiian flora and fauna, and continue to negatively impact the lives of local U.S. citizens. These types of ecological and public impacts have already been addressed in Puerto Rico. In a 2001 federal lawsuit, Vieques' residents accused the Navy of causing more damage than any other single actor in the history of Puerto Rico, stating that the Navy's activities contaminated much of the eastern portion of the island. Over the course of the U.S. Navy's occupation, nearly 22 million pounds of military and industrial waste were deposited, and the full extent of chemicals leaching into the ground is still unknown. On May 1, 2003 the Navy finished turning over all of its lands to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Before this, Vieques was "bombed" an average of 180 days per year. The Army has leased land on the island of O'ahu from the state for an annual payment of \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, it is of our concerted opinion this land should be immediately restored to the public. Hawaii is a state, not a territory. Therefore, Hawaii's citizen's should be treated with at least equal respect to those of Puerto Rico.

Chandler Holland , CIG& Certified NC Environmental Educator Director & Founder Red Ridge, NC Engage. Educate. Employ. RedRidgeNC.org | 336.290.3947

**From:** Admin RRNC <info@redridgenc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:45  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] O'ahu Island Military Presence Concerns

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

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Our organization is strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on Mākua, Kahuka, and Wahiawā lands.

Our environmental educators and scientists have voiced concern about the ecological and public impact of the continued military presence on the island, including:

- Noise pollution causing public impact through toxic stress
  - Military leases on these lands can lead to Adverse Childhood Experiences caused by exposure to toxic stress due to noise pollution, which lead to poorer quality of life, and chronic diseases later in life.
- Disproportionate land distribution
  - According to current data, the island is vastly disproportionately split between the local population and the military landmass.
- Renewed leases leading to ecological impact
  - An extension of these leases will further damage the natural resources of the island, impacting the natural habitats of native Hawaiian flora and fauna, and continue to negatively impact the lives of local U.S. citizens.

These types of ecological and public impacts have already been addressed in Puerto Rico. In a 2001 federal lawsuit, Vieques' residents accused the Navy of causing more damage than any other single actor in the history of Puerto Rico, stating that the Navy's activities contaminated much of the eastern portion of the island. Over the course of the U.S. Navy's occupation, nearly 22 million pounds of military and industrial waste were deposited, and the full extent of chemicals leaching into the ground is still unknown. On May 1, 2003 the Navy finished turning over all of its lands to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Before this, Vieques was "bombed" an average of 180 days per year.



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**Chandler Holland < Caution-**

**<https://sites.google.com/redridgenc.org/redridgenc/hellp/rrncteam/chandler-holland> > , CIG**

*& Certified NC Environmental Educator*

Director & Founder

Red Ridge, NC

Engage. Educate. Employ.

RedRidgeNC.org < Caution-

<https://sites.google.com/redridgenc.org/redridgenc> > | 336.290.3947 < Caution-

<http://336.290.3947/> >

RODRIGUES OHANA COMMENTS ON ARMY EIS

86-222 PUHAWAI ROAD, WAIANAE HAWAII 96792

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments; usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil

RODRIGUES OHANA , sparkyrodrigues@gmail.com

Scoping Comments on the O'ahu Army Training Lands Retention Environmental Impact Statement (O'ahu EIS)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sparky Rodrigues, a member of RODRIGUES OHANA a hui of Hawai'i residents concerned about the negative effects of military activities in Hawai'i and the region. On behalf of RODRIGUES OHANA I am submitting these scoping comments on the O'ahu Army Training Lands Retention Environmental Impact Statement (O'ahu EIS).

**I ATTEMPTED TO ATTEND THE FIRST COMMUNITY SCOPING MEETING. TRAVELING FROM WAIANAE TO WAHIAWA LEILEHUA GOLF COURSE ONLY TO FIND OUT FACE TO FACE MEETING WAS CANCELED WITHOUT WARNING OR NOTIFICATION... I WAS READY TO LISTEN AND ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONING WITH NEEDED FOLLOW UP Qs. I BELIEVE BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS FAILURE IN COMBINING STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS ONLY CONFUSED THE ISSUE. OUR OHANA NEED CLARIFICATION ON MANY PARTS OF THE EIS...**

**WE DEMAND COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY EACH EIS POINTS. EXAMPLE: MAKUA EIS LEASES TO BE CONDUCTED IN A NEUTRAL COMMUNITY SITE ONE EACH FOR STATE EIS AND ONE FOR FEDERAL EIS... NO SEGMENTING OF EIS.**

WE FURTHER DEMAND INDEPENDANT PEER REVIEW AND EXPERTS TO COMMUNITY FULLY EXPLAIN EVERY ASPECT OF THE EIS PROCESS AND HOW COMMENTS AND DECISIONS IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY AND OHANA.

RODRIGUES OHANA

RODRIGUES OHANA COMMENTS ON ARMY EIS



SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments; usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil

RODRIGUES OHANA , sparkyrodrigues@gmail.com

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RODRIGUES OHANA

# Sovereign Kamehameha Dynasty Government

SKDG Constitution by Notice with Private Sovereign Jurisdiction – August 2021 - Served by US Registered Post Deputy Secretary of Defense, Kathleen H Hicks, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Stacy A Cummings Secretary of the Army, Christine E Wormuth, Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief National Guard Bureau, General Daniel R Hokanson, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Charles Q Brown Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H Berger c/o O'ahu ATLR EIS, PO Box 3444, Honolulu, HI

96801-3444 P. 808.556.8277 usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil Website: Caution-www.defense.gov

CC: Attention: Shelley Muneoka, Kahea: The Hawaiian-Environmental

Alliance Website: Caution-www.kahea.org Aloha – Greetings: RE: Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho and Mākua – Lease renewal 18,060 acres on Sovereign KDG jurisdiction, Request Denied SSG Members and alliance, Heir Apparent Leader and King, ©Kane Kumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'I Kamehameha™, (Makapu) for Sovereign ©Kamehameha Dynasty Kingdom of Hawai'i and Na Kanaka Maoli-o-Hawaii™ with SSG PIM #SSG333SSCK-MAKAPU20021945SKDG-2016SBOK2021SSCG and his Sovereign Executive Assistant ©DKHoapili/Kuuleimomi 'O Pa'ahao™ (Dianne), Diplomat for SKDG Foreign Affairs with SSG PIM #SSG333SSCK-DKH1010194SKDG-2016SBOK2021SSCG, email this confirmation to deny the lease renewal of the above noted Private Land located on SKDG jurisdiction pursuant to SKDG Sovereign Peace Constitution. SSCK Longhouse court advisors support a previous email that was forwarded by Dianne to meet a September 1, 2021 deadline with objection to a lease renewal of Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho and Mākua for US Army live-fire training. US Registered #7021-0350-0001-7779-1101 Post Receipt did not deliver the Notice and Map information today, we take the liberty to attach a virus free 4 page Notice to confirm our direction from SKDG leader, Makapu and Dianne with SKDG Constitution for universal peace laws. There is a 21 day time clause proviso in effect upon receipt of SKDG allodial jurisdiction and Constitution. Should SSG and SKDG members not receive a response, silence and non performance is a tacit consent to agree to the terms of said registered US Post Notice. We trust that this is in order and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to email by return at ssck@sovsqgov.org or irene@sovsqgov.org Huy chewx a-thank you, ashne ate - Apache; we are love, duni duni ba ba ba -Matuna, Garu - Yidinji, aloha, ki hora, ma ah, onegewaye, dane schon, terima kasha, arigato, merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, bedankt, abrigado, OM TAT SAT – Sanskrit for Supreme Absolute Truth + El Ka Lim Om – May Peace Be With you – Namaste. In spirit with SSG Heir Apparent, Siyam Te ©Ki-ap-alanogh/Kiapilanoq-CAPILANO™ sovereign legacy as Leader by bloodline of Ancestral Name and Love for Allodial Lands/country and natural resources governed by Sovereign ©Skwxwú7mesh-Squamish™ Government (SSG) Constitution with peaceful leaders and members SSG ©Irene-Maus: Gravenhorst Kiapilanoq™, Ambassador for Foreign Relations SSCK longhouse advisor for SSG, SBoK and President/Director for SSCG Private Identified Member (PIM[1] ) #SSG333SSCK-12111954-IMGK-SBOKSSCG2021 Caution-https://jitsi.org/ on-line web conferencing available upon request Alternate

email info@sovsqgov.org https://www.sovsqgov.org ©BTI-2007-2021 with all rights reserved Copy right claim, Trademark, letters patent protected data pursuant to universal peace laws and SSG Constitutional 'do no harm' protocol. Access SSG website with Tor, Epic, Go Duck Go or Firefox browser as Google Inc. has 'fake news' propaganda on their gateways to deter humanity from investigating the truth about SSG members work for Mother Earth turtle island's peace. Please consider the environment before printing this email. E&OE/SKC/imgk Ref:SSG Constitutional bank and insurance laws offer products and services free from; Taxes, Usury/Interest Rates, Inflation, VAT, Import/Export Tariff, AI, RFID, QR and Barcodes, or any other type of Third Party commission that extracts secret commissions to fund wars on planet Earth. Introducing a new way to bank with SSG IBOE (International Bills of Exchange) pursuant to the Bills of Exchange Act, 1882 that is preferred for enforcement remedy with education for Sovereign Government to Sovereign Government with private transactions. SSCG CC (Certified Cheques) offer funds

for sovereign businesses in the Private.[1]SSG members ID is supported by a Third Party. Conversations with Yogananda Paramhansa Section #177 “At the moment of conception, when the sperm and ovum unite there is a flash of light in the Astral world. ~ SSG member is born into the fetus of the woman’s womb. This ID has nothing to do with Berth Certificates from JV Inc. Club of Rome Private/Public Trust Treasury and club of Rome members et al.

**From:** (c) DianneKHoapili (TM) <dkhoapili@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:28  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: USArmy Notice with map  
**Attachments:** [SKDG2-USARMY-AUG2021.doc](#); [SKDG2-USARMY-AUG2021.pdf](#)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Sirs:

On August 24, 2021 the virus free attached 4 page PDF OAHU EIS COMMENT was mailed via USPS certified mail, return receipt to meet the deadline today on September 1. USPS Tracking reports a delay in delivery service that should have been on August 27 by 9:00 pm. As of today, it appears the delivery is still in transit.

It has, therefore, become necessary to email a copy of our comments to meet the September 1 deadline with all rights reserved.

Trust this now becomes an official notice that we have complied with the deadline.

Mahalo,  
Dianne K Hoapili/Kuuleimomi 'O Pa'ahao, SKDG Sovereign Executive Assistant to King  
Makapu  
(808) 348-2569

Sent from ProtonMail for iOS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: SSCK Longhouse PrivatePrimary Court  
(LPC)<[ssck@sovsqugov.org](mailto:ssck@sovsqugov.org) < Caution-mailto:ssck@sovsqugov.org > >  
Date: On Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 5:31 PM  
Subject: Fwd: USArmy Notice with map  
To: DianneKH <[dkhoapili@pm.me](mailto:dkhoapili@pm.me) < Caution-mailto:dkhoapili@pm.me > >  
Cc: Chavez <[phil.chavez@sovsqugov.org](mailto:phil.chavez@sovsqugov.org) < Caution-mailto:phil.chavez@sovsqugov.org > >  
[Aloha Dianne and Makapu,](#)

I've provided an editable MS Word version in case you want to add or change something.

The pdf version is complete with the map, thus 4 pages ... as discussed.

Scan a copy of the US Postal receipt for me so that I can back this for the records and your file.

Exciting stuff, love you,

Irene and Kap in spirit

xoxox

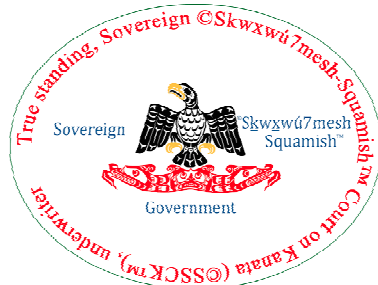
Huy chexw a-thank you, ashne ate (Apache-we are love), duni duni baba ba - Matuna, garu - Yidinji, onege-waye, danke schon, terima kashi, arigato, merci, muchas gracias, bedankt - Private Longhouse Court, Sovereign ©Skwxwú7mesh-Squamish™ Court on Kanata (©SSCK™) advisors.

El Ka Lim Om - May Peace be with you. OM TAT SAT - Sanskrit for Supreme Absolute Truth.

Assured protection from SSG SSCK longhouse Court Advisors - General Department

Caution-<https://jitsi.org/> < Caution-<https://jitsi.org/> > preferred on-line web conferencing

Standard general email [info@sovsqgov.org](mailto:info@sovsqgov.org) < Caution-mailto:info@sovsqgov.org >



<https://www.sovsqgov.org> >

Caution-<https://www.sovsqgov.org> < Caution-

Access SSG website with Tor, Epic, or Go Duck Go browser. Google Inc. has placed 'fake news' propaganda on their gateway to deter humanity from investigating the truth about SSG members work for world peace.

©BTI~2007-2021...All rights reserved pursuant to SSG Constitution with SSG Jurisdiction assured by SSCK with Copyclaim/right Trademark for equitable commercial remedy pursuant to international financial transparent contract laws for risk management disclosure.™ E&OE/SKC/RPC:imgk

**From:** SSCK Longhouse Court <ssck@sovsqgov.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 15:16  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Dianne Makapu; Shelley; Chavez  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Certified US Post Mail Receipt #7021-0350-0001-7779-1101  
**Attachments:** [SKDG2-USARMY-AUG2021.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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SKDG Constitution by Notice with Private Sovereign Jurisdiction – August2021 - Served by US Registered Post

Deputy Secretary of Defense, Kathleen H Hicks,  
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Stacy A Cummings  
Secretary of the Army, Christine E Wormuth, Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro,  
Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall, Chief of Naval Operations,  
Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief National Guard Bureau, General Daniel R Hokanson,  
Air Force Chief of Staff, General Charles Q Brown Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H Berger  
c/o O'ahu ATLR EIS, PO Box 3444, Honolulu, HI 96801-3444 P. 808.556.8277 [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil) < Caution-mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil > Website: Caution-www.defense.gov < Caution-http://www.defense.gov >

CC: Attention: Shelley Muneoka, Kahea: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance Website: Caution-www.kahea.org < Caution-http://www.kahea.org >

Aloha – Greetings:

**RE: Kahuku, Kawaioloa-Poamoho and Mākua – Lease renewal 18,060 acres on Sovereign KDG jurisdiction, Request Denied**

SSG Members and alliance, Heir Apparent Leader and King, ©Kane Kumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'I Kamehameha™, (Makapu) for Sovereign ©Kamehameha Dynasty Kingdom of Hawai'i and Na Kanaka Maoli-o-Hawaii™ with SSG PIM #SSG333SSCK-MAKAPU20021945SKDG-2016SBOK2021SSCG and his Sovereign Executive Assistant ©DKHoapili/Kuuleimomi 'O Pa'ahao™ (Dianne), Diplomat for SKDG Foreign Affairs with SSG PIM #SSG333SSCK-DKH1010194SKDG-2016SBOK2021SSCG, email this confirmation to deny the lease renewal of the above noted Private Land located on SKDG jurisdiction pursuant to SKDG Sovereign Peace Constitution.

SSCK Longhouse court advisors support a previous email that was forwarded by Dianne to meet a September 1, 2021 deadline with objection to a lease renewal of Kahuku, Kawaioloa-Poamoho and Mākua for US Army live-fire training. US Registered #7021-0350-0001-7779-1101 Post Receipt did not deliver the Notice and Map information today, we take the liberty to attach a virus free 4 page Notice to confirm our direction from SKDG leader, Makapu and Dianne with SKDG Constitution for universal peace laws.

There is a 21 day time clause proviso in effect upon receipt of SKDG allodial jurisdiction and Constitution. Should SSG and SKDG members not receive a response, silence and non performance is a tacit consent to agree to the terms of said registered US Post Notice.

We trust that this is in order and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to email by return at [ssck@sovsqgov.org](mailto:ssck@sovsqgov.org) < Caution-mailto:ssck@sovsqgov.org > or [irene@sovsqgov.org](mailto:irene@sovsqgov.org) < Caution-mailto:irene@sovsqgov.org >



Huy chewx a-thank you, ashne ate - Apache; we are love, duni duni ba ba ba -Matuna, Garu - Yidinji, aloha, ki hora, ma ah, onegewaye, dane schon, terima kasha, arigato, merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, bedankt, abrigado,

OM TAT SAT – Sanskrit for Supreme Absolute Truth + El Ka Lim Om – May Peace Be With you – Namaste.

In spirit with SSG Heir Apparent, Siyam Te ©Ki-ap-alanogh/Kiapilanoq-CAPILANO™ sovereign legacy as

Leader by bloodline of Ancestral Name and Love for Allodial Lands/country and natural resources governed by

Sovereign ©Skwxwú7mesh-Squamish™ Government (SSG) Constitution with peaceful leaders and members

SSG ©Irene-Maus: GravenhorstKiapilanoq™, Ambassador for Foreign Relations

SSCK longhouse advisor for SSG, SBoK and President/Director for SSCG

Private Identified Member (PIM[1] < #\_ftn1 > ) #SSG333SSCK-12111954-IMGK-SBOKSSCG2021

Caution-<https://jitsi.org/> < Caution-<https://jitsi.org/> > on-line web conferencing available upon request

Alternate email [info@sovsqugov.org](mailto:info@sovsqugov.org) < Caution-mailto:info@sovsqugov.org >

< #\_ftnref1 >



Caution-<https://www.sovsqugov.org> < Caution-<https://www.sovsqugov.org> >

©BTI-2007-2021 with all rights reserved Copy right claim, Trademark, letters patent protected data pursuant to universal peace laws and SSG Constitutional ‘do no harm’ protocol. Access SSG website with Tor, Epic, Go Duck Go or Firefox browser as Google Inc. has ‘fake news’ propaganda on their gateways to deter humanity from investigating the truth about SSG members work for Mother Earth turtle island’s peace. Please consider the environment before printing this email. E&OE/SKC/imgk Ref:

SSG Constitutional bank and insurance laws offer products and services **free from**; Taxes, Usury/Interest Rates, Inflation, VAT, Import/Export Tariff, AI, RFID, QR and Barcodes, or any other type of Third Party commission that extracts secret commissions to fund wars on planet Earth. Introducing a new way to bank with SSG IBOE (International Bills of Exchange) pursuant to the Bills of Exchange Act, 1882 that is preferred for enforcement remedy with education for Sovereign Government to Sovereign Government with private transactions. SSCG CC (Certified Cheques) offer funds for sovereign businesses in the Private.

[1] < #\_ftnref1 > SSG members ID is supported by a Third Party. Conversations with Yogananda Paramhansa Section #177 “At the moment of conception, when the sperm and ovum unite there is a flash of light in the Astral world. ~ SSG member is born into the fetus of the woman’s womb. This ID has nothing to do with Berth Certificates from JV Inc. Club of Rome Private/Public Trust Treasury and club of Rome members et al.



©Sovereign Kamehameha Dynasty™ Government (SKDG)  
 ©Restoring Crown Kamehameha Dynasty and Na Kanaka Maoli-o-Hawaii™  
 Aotearoa 'Avaiki Fiji Hawai'i Maupiti Nu'u Hiwa Rapanui Samoa Tahiti Tonga

SKDG Constitution by Notice with Private Sovereign Jurisdiction – August 2021  
 Served by Certified US Post Mail Receipt #7021-0350-0001-7779-1101

Deputy Secretary of Defense, Kathleen H Hicks, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Stacy A Cummings  
 Secretary of the Army, Christine E Wormuth, Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall,  
 Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief National Guard Bureau, General Daniel R Hokanson,  
 Air Force Chief of Staff, General Charles Q Brown Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H Berger  
 c/o O'ahu ATLR EIS, PO Box 3444, Honolulu, HI 96801-3444 P. 808.556.8277 [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil) or Website: [www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

CC: Attention: Shelley Muneoka, Kahea: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance  
[kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com) Website: [www.kahea.org](http://www.kahea.org)

Aloha – Greetings:

**RE: Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho and Mākua – Lease renewal 18,060 acres on Sovereign KDG jurisdiction, Request Denied**

This Notice is provided to inform US Army personnel that the Sovereign ©Kamehameha Dynasty Kingdom of Hawai'i and Na Kanaka Maoli-o-Hawaii™ SKDG King, ©Kane Kumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'i Kamehameha™, Heir Apparent Leader for SKDG denies the lease renewal of the above noted Private Land located on SKDG jurisdiction pursuant to SKDG Sovereign Peace Constitution.

Reasons - SKDG Constitution of 'do no harm, Sovereign aka Free-will with universal natural Peace' laws come with scientific facts that we are not interested in war, thus we have no army, no weapons to defend peace on SKDG Jurisdiction, Mother Earth. WHEREAS:

A Sovereign ©Kamehameha Dynasty Kingdom of Hawai'i and Na Kanaka Maoli-o-Hawaii™ is led by heir apparent SKDG King, ©Kane Kumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'i Kamehameha™ and his partner ©DKHoapili/Kuuleimomi 'O Pa'ahao™<sub>SN-NN</sub> both autographed signatories to this Lawful Notice. SKDG jurisdiction is served with Privacy, Copy right/claim Trademark secured insurance protection of \$21T in lawful currency over the air, on the surface and beneath the surface for every breath that is inhaled and exhaled by hu-mans living on SKDG jurisdiction. Thus, the atmospheric claim goes beyond this universe towards the Creator of All Living Things, Earth's ground claim goes to the center and beyond, the waters/ocean claims goes past the wheel of Fire Creation and beyond. Sovereigns are unlimited beings who have a unalienable right to unlimited contracts as we never die our spiritual mission/dharma is to protect peace with no force, with no destruction but from the heart because that is humanity's infinite power.

B SKDG members will set up tax/usury free banking in order to bring peace to Mother Earth from this point of life onward, as above so below. SKDG banking solutions will offer our own Bank license, Root certificate for SKDG currency backed by the natural resources on the jurisdictional claim that remains in-ground as the gold, silver, copper and other tangible resources belong to Earth. Our traditional practice is to ask Mother Earth in ceremony for what we can take and with gratitude she is respected for providing abundance of food, clean water, fresh air that we breathe and homes to shelter us from storms.

C Public Corporate de facto STATE Government (PCSG) - Public registered Government elected politicians, religious leaders, F.R.A.U.D (FEDERAL RESERVE AUDIT UNIT DENOMINATION) secondary bankers own nothing, not a speck of gold in the ground, not a fish that swims in our oceans, not the air that we breathe. Public Corporate systems owned by the Federal Reserve Bank Board (FRB) aka JesuitVatican (JointVenture) Inc. Club of Rome and Committee of 300, Trilateral Commission, WTO, etc. own nothing, zip, nada. Illuminati secret societies with public bank tax/usury systems have failed humanity and Earth. Deep State members public corporate members are exposed as COVID<sup>1</sup> investors for plandemic/scandemic agendas to reduce 8 Billion people by 'chosen masters<sup>2</sup>' and half a billion human slaves for sustainable climate change. Mass media, fake news 'talking' heads promote 'fear' propaganda with TV gamma rays to impose MK mind ultra control to have maskers fight the 'no maskers'. By divide, they conquer. Face masks are designed to 'diaper/shut up freedom of speech' plus those with the vax jab are now owned by patented AI tracking nano, magnetic graphene technology and predicted to

<sup>1</sup> Author Jacques Attali, Verbatim I 1981-1986 a glimpse into the Elite's mindset; "The future will be about finding a way to reduce the population... Of course, we will not be able to execute people or build camps. We get rid of them by making them believe it is for their own good... We will find or cause something, a pandemic targeting certain people, a real economic crisis or not, a virus affecting the old or the elderly, it doesn't matter, the weak and the fearful will succumb to it. The stupid will believe in it and ask to be treated. We will have taken care of having panned the treatment, a treatment that will be the solution. The selection of idiots will therefore be done by itself, they will go to the slaughterhouse alone." April 8, 2021 – LifeSiteNews, Ex-Pfizer VP: Dr. Michael Yeadon COVID-19 Vaccines to Cause Mass Depopulation event within 2 years, injection agency is 'demonstrably false' and fraught with sinister corruption that could lead to unimaginable 'mass death events' within 2 years.

<sup>2</sup> On a barren field in Georgia, US, five Georgia granite slabs rise in a star pattern, each weighs over 20 tons, no one knows who built it or why they are there. The prediction of this demise for humanity's future by a two-tiered doomsday should be investigated. Those who erected this should be questioned and/or deposed live-on the internet.

die a slow torturous death. Banking global reset ‘chips’ with RFID QR marks on sleepy sheeple with blood clot shots and mercury poisoning. De facto public STATE Corporate Governments registered at the United Nation(s) are controlled by the Pilgrim Society / Deep State who use philanthropic foundations to issue debts with tax/usury funds to invest in pharma mafia genocide on Earth. Canada Inc. is the only government listed as an investor at CDC [www.cdcfoundation.org/partner-list/corporations](http://www.cdcfoundation.org/partner-list/corporations) Source: <https://gab.com/Annaeva/posts/106250802779281805> Luciferian elites will continue to steal elections and terrorize humanity until met with strong resistance and a taste of their own ‘medicine’. Digital health passports are no longer conspiracies, this is how they are ‘killing US army personnel’. We believe that we can help in a meeting of the minds, peacefully.

D Laws - US Army Garrison Hawaii website; Pursuant to the US Army National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA), 1969 wherein federal agencies are required to integrate environmental values into decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of your proposed action to use Mother Earth for live-fire training is unacceptable and inappropriate. The Army’s implementing regulation for NEPA, 32 CFR 651 sets forth the Army’s policies and responsibilities for the early integration of environmental considerations into final decision-making. US Army Garrison Hawaii’s NEPA program assists in analyzing the environmental effects of proposed Army actions before decisions are made. The goal of the program is to balance realistic Army mission training with ecological and cultural resources compatibilities, economic and community objectives.

D1 The depth of NEPA analysis depends on many things, including but not limited to the noise of live-fire training sessions to neighboring communities, its dangerous effects on public hearing and possible fatalities for people and nature. The environmental impact of destructive sound can destroy hearing for both civilians and Earth’s nature. Depleted uranium is toxic and lethal causing; genetic, neurological effects from chronic exposure plus birth defects, cancer and harmful effects of radioactivity on the environment and human health.

NOW THEREFORE with Valuable Security<sup>3</sup> and in Consideration<sup>4</sup> SKDG Seals affixed and registered with assurance, receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby accepted and acknowledged by all parties as an Equitable Remedy agreed by estoppel. Together we make the following declarations, attestations conscientiously knowing them to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect by virtue of the Great Laws for Universal Peace.

1 Proposal - Instead of training army personnel to kill and fight another man’s war, merge trained military Security into one Space Team, completely separate from the NASA ‘Nazi scientists’. Air Force resources that ‘Defend the Skies’ with DOD, Captain John L MacMichael is responsible for Pacific communication services and systems. Mother Earth can be secured with scientific technology that protects her atmosphere, space and cyberspace. No more chem trails to poison the air that we breathe, no more HAARP weather manipulation, no more tax/usury commerce. The merging of trained army teams could welcome ‘new’ visitors from other planetary/galaxies systems to create co-operative friendships. As they learn from us, we can learn from them with love from our hearts to embrace races that live in neighboring universes. Love is the power that removes fear from human minds, as we are all One from the Creator. Space travel technology can help us with environmental travel solutions and offer exciting experiences for alliances with new friends who may not look like us, but are prepared to establish, promote and secure universal peace, together.

2 So, instead of training army personnel to destroy life by ‘shooting first and asking questions later’, laser technology can put aggressive ‘beings’ into a deep sleep. Similar to Star Trek with a laser ‘tag’ to render aggressive resistance harmless for everyone’s safety, in order to remove them/him/her to a contained area. A few years ago, former Canada’s Minister of National Defence, Paul Hellyer was on tour to disclose that NASA Space program has been kept secret from the public because private treaties are in place with Governments who exchanged technology by approving human abductions for experimentation. This is never permitted as the power of sovereignty with informed consent is required from people, not governments.

3 In exchange for your presence on SKDG jurisdiction, we expect co-operation and respect to our peaceful leaders. We ask that military teams educate the general population in preparation for first aid response to natural disasters; stock piling food and water supplies, agriculture for self reliance and independence, first aid courses, utmost respect towards disabled vets, attending to the sick along with environmental free, friendly solutions that unite our people together in case of natural disasters that require emergency aid on SKDG country.

4 SKDG Private Trust banking with our own sovereign currency backed by natural resources that remain in-ground pursuant to strict environmental SKDG Constitutional laws. SKDG members can assist with tax/usury free payroll requirements for 100,000 personnel living, working and socializing on SKDG jurisdiction. SKDG Constitutional and Jurisdictional claims are presented with a map that established our Claim of Right to the Title of SKDG Allodial

<sup>3</sup> Valuable Security: includes (a) an order, exchequer acquittance or other security that entitles or evidences the title of any person (i) to a share or interest in a public stock or fund or in any fund of a body corporate, company or society, or (ii) to a deposit in a financial institution, (b) any debenture, deed, bond, bill, note, warrant, order or other security for money or for payment of money, (c) a document of title to lands or goods wherever situated, (d) a stamp or writing that secures or evidences title to or an interest in a chattel personal, or that evidences delivery of a chattel personal, and (e) a release, receipt, discharge or other instrument evidencing payment of money. Pocket Criminal Code, Carswell, © 2003, p12.

<sup>4</sup> Valuable consideration: A class of consideration upon which a promise may be founded, which entitles the promisee to enforce his claim against an unwilling promisor. A thing of value parted with, or a new obligation assumed, at the time of obtaining a thing, which is a substantial compensation for that which is obtained thereby. Black’s Law Dictionary, Henry Campbell Black, Third Edition, © 1933, p1797.

lands effective 1840. We look forward to a timely response within 21 days from the date of this served Notice. Failure to respond by performance will mean that US Army's members silence is a tacit agreement to this Notice of SKDG Constitution and Jurisdiction.

In closing, we trust that this Notice clearly defines SKDG jurisdiction with assured security protection of SKDG Constitution that has no politics, so votes or contributions are not required, no religion so we do not require donations because we are from the Creator with no name, we do not support taxes or usury fees as they are an Obstruction of Justice to World Peace, we have no 'racial discrimination' therefore it does not matter what color you are, SKDG primary protocol is to respect and honor sovereignty with a universal peaceful constitution. As a result, SKDG Constitution 'do no harm and peace' protocol protects the future of humanity with sovereignty for peace on Earth. We will establish a website for international financial transparency to explain to the world's business community that we are here to stay and aloha for your patience. We waive a two (2) time Copy claim/right Trademark infringement for a letter in an envelope that describes an interest to attend a vis à vis in order to pursue the urgent matter of protecting universal peace from Sentient Mother Earth.

Dated August, 2021 on Sovereign ©Kamehameha Dynasty™ Government (SKDG) jurisdiction with Restoration of the ©Kamehameha Dynasty Kingdom of Hawai'i and Na Kanaka Maoli-o-Hawaii™ Constitution.

Sovereign ©Kamehameha Dynasty™ Government (SKDG) Traditional Court before the arrival of visitors

WHEREAS we hereby swear with penalty of perjury that said information provided hereon is true and accurate. SKDG leaders control SKDG natural resources, collateral and assets pursuant to SKDG Constitution and SKDG Jurisdiction peacefully with International Privacy laws. SKDG natural resources remain in-ground pursuant to SKDG Court strict environmental legislation.

WHEREAS this fiduciary interest acceptance by SKDG autographs seal this lawful instrument with due diligence as evidence of a sovereign right to live free with no malice aforethought, ill will, vexation or frivolity. We declare the aforesaid to be true and that it is our duty and primary obligation to serve a primary directive and mandate for Universal peace.

WHEREAS authentication of this SKDG Court Copy right Trade mark provided by SKDG members does not constitute any adhesion, nor does it alter SKDG sovereign Names in any manner. The purpose of SKDG Court with autographs is attestation, verification and identification and may be entered as evidence into universal courts to support the primary mandate of truth for Universal Peace on Earth. We hereby certify and authenticate the matters set out as they pertain to the execution of this instrument. We place our autographs with SKDG court seals provided as valuable consideration/security affixed hereon as an authentic act and service of Named SKDG members.

WHEREAS as Named Autographed Creditors to Secured Assurance speak and write in Good Faith by a stroke of pen to paper to declare the truth by our Sovereign Names that we have personal knowledge of the facts and matters herein. We are over the age of Twenty-One (21) acting in full capacity to support, enforce and protect world peace for the future of humanity.

WHEREAS this fiduciary interest acceptance by red ink digitized autographs below, supported by SKDG's seal for this documented information with due diligence as evidenced by our Sovereign Seals that serve as valuable consideration, receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged and accepted by all parties, to exercise our right to live free without malice aforethought, ill will, vexation or frivolity, without corporate dictate, we declare the aforesaid to be truth in fact.

WHEREAS we make this Declaration and Attestation conscientiously knowing it to be true and that it is of the same force and effect by virtue of The Great Laws of Peace<sup>5</sup> for Sentient Earth's Turtle Island. These terms and conditions are not negotiable.

Mahalo Nui Loa – Thank you from the heart:

**CROWN SPIRITUAL IKA PONOHAWAII CROWN PHYSICAL**



Aotearoa 'Avaiki Fiji Hawai'i Maupiti Nu'u Hiwa Rapanui Samoa Tahiti Tonga  
Our Ancestors Culture Our Equity to Work And GOD 'T'o with Other Nations

No Corporate Dictate:

© KMK™

©KKumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'i Kamahameha™<sub>SN-NN</sub>, SSG Ambassador for SKDG as HRH, King ©Makapu™  
SKDG Sovereign King, ©Kane Kumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'i Kamahameha™  
SSG PIM<sup>6</sup> #SSG33SSCK-MAKAPU20021945SKDG-2016SBOK2021SSCG

No Corporate Dictate:

© DKHoapili/Kuuleimomi 'O Pa'ahao™<sub>SN-NN</sub>, SKDG Sovereign Executive Assistant to King, Makapu,  
SSG Diplomat for SKDG Foreign Affairs PIM #SSG33SSCK-DKH1010194SKDG-2016SBOK2021SSCG

<sup>5</sup> Great Law of Peace adopts the Canada Evidence Act (a) as a legislation of truth.

<sup>6</sup> SSG Private Identified Member is supported with Absolute Supreme Spiritual Authority by Third Party recognition from conversations with Yogananda Paramhansa Section #177 "At the moment of conception, when the sperm and ovum unite there is a flash of light in the Astral world. ~ SSG member is born into a woman's fetus. + The seed was thrown into the soil and the materialization of one's physical form begins. Deducting nine months we obtain the date from the Subtle World into the physical.



• \*\*\*AMENDEDMENTS\*\*\*

NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL IS NOTICE TO AGENT.  
NOTICE TO AGENT IS NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL

Autograph's of Sovereign Copyright Trademark Sacred Names:

© *The Heir Kane Kumu Honua Kamehameha*™

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Kanaka Maoli Beneficiary

© *Benjamin Daniel Nihi*™

©Benjamin Daniel Nihi™  
Kanaka Maoli Beneficiary

© *Dianne K. Hoapili*™

©Dianne K. Hoapili aka Ku'uleimomi 'O Pa'ahoa™  
Kanaka Maoli Beneficiary

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DATED: *Lihue, Hawaii* on *26 Sept 2019*

Receipt acknowledgment:

*Benjamin P. Hogan* 9/26/19 Date

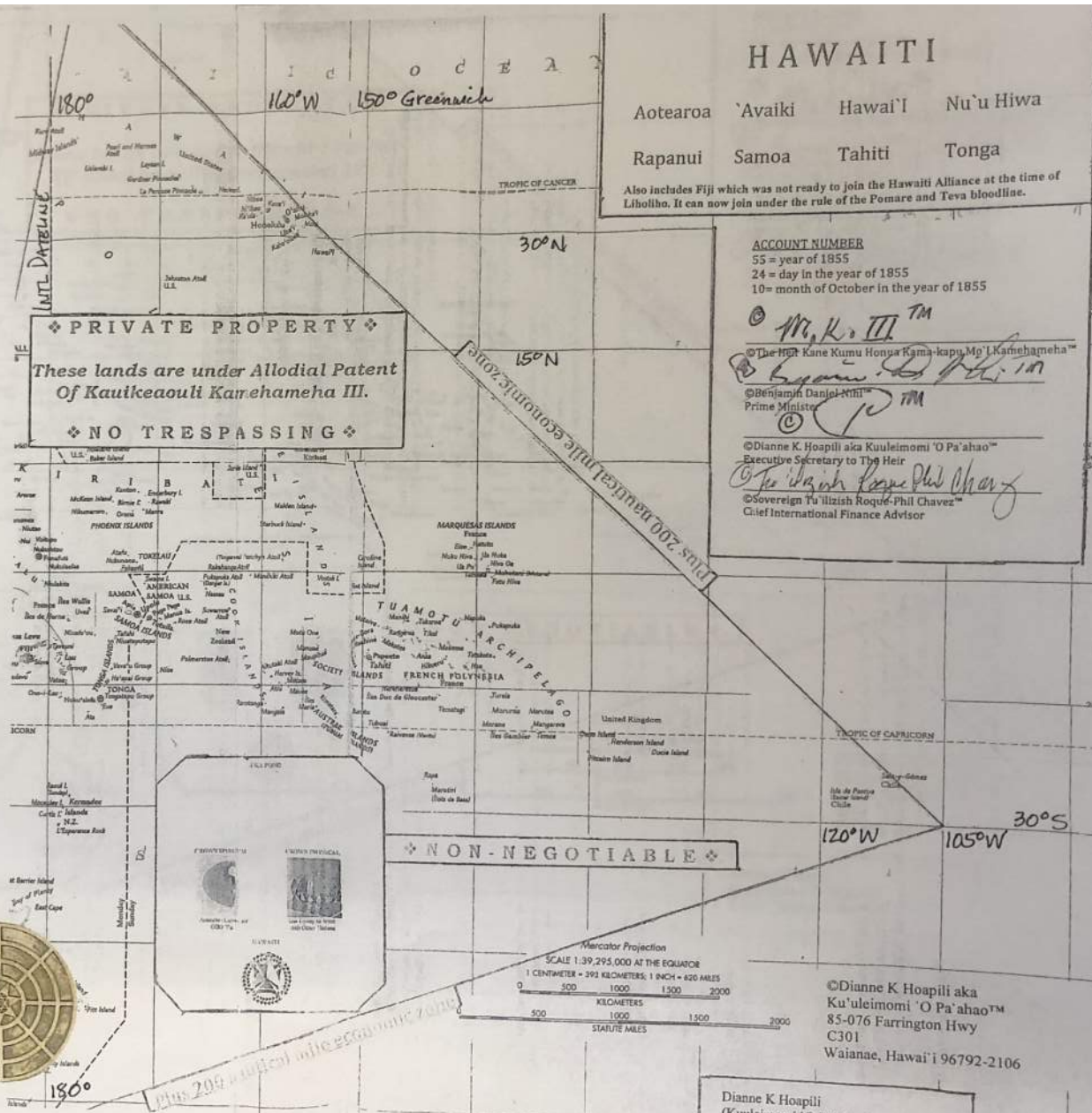
Autograph

Print Name: *Benjamin P. Hogan*

Location: *Judge Randall Valenziano Court room.*

Copies attached to this Sovereign Hawaii Nation map (two-sided) document:

1. ©The Heir Kane Kumu Honua Kama-kapu Mo'i Kamehameha Genealogy (4 pgs.)
2. Supreme Court of Hawaii Allodial Document of Covenant.
3. Supreme Court of Hawaii "The Hawaii Trust".



## M Kehlani Souza

Responding to the article in the Star Advertiser (August 1, 2021) regarding lease extensions and military training in Hawaii. Please excuse me for being a little confused; but, at a time when America's morality is a question, when the history of the country is being challenged on many fronts; not least the dominant version of that history, which has more in common with a "daddy knows best" episode from the 1950s than reality. At a time when more and more people are becoming aware of the fraud perpetrated against the citizens of Hawaii by the United States; not to mention an outright admission of guilt in the 1990s regarding America's underhanded tactics. When China, buy some accounts over extend its influence beyond the China Sea into the Pacific theater, at a time when Compaq agreements and old nation to nation understandings are expiring; begs the questions: is this the time to be weighing in with authoritarian executive orders to administratively continue the fraudulent relationship with the people of Hawaii?

On the playing field of the Geopolitical chessboard could this be the moment to repair those relationships and remove that leverage from the international arena?

Until such time as those discussions occur I must concur with Hank Ferguson John's assessment printed below for clarity's sake: Your public comment is on August 10 and 11th between 6-9pm Leilehua Golf Course on OAHU. What exactly are we commenting on? Your reference site Caution-<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS> does not have anything there, but from the address given, apparently it is part of some Environmental Impact Statement.

A lot of talk about Pohakuloa Training Area and land swap suggestions. Why is this meeting being NOT being held on Hawaii Island too, in fact it should be statewide. You talk of bases from Pacific Missile Range (Kauai) to Pohakuloa (Hawaii Island). You speak as if the people of Hawaii want to be the FIRST target protection for the Continental United States.

When you speak of an EIS, you would be remiss to not notice that the people of Hawaii are the environment, and yes we care about our families and our future.

You need to fix your internet addressing and information access ASAP.

Suggestion: CHANGE your meetings dates and include the outer islands. (I also wholeheartedly agree with this last statement.)

Please let me know how I might help to resolve the situation? Always ready and willing to assist with mediation and conversations and dialogue the lead to good decision making.

Reverend M Kehlani Souza.XXX-XXX-XXXXUHNDPTCRaising voices in NCARPrimo pacific risk management OhanaThe Olohana Foundation.

**From:** [M. Kalani Souza](#)  
**To:** [Hank Hawaiian](#)  
**Cc:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#); [Sofronio J. Estores](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: public comments Aug 10,11 2021 / Outraged  
**Date:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 14:10:06 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Reverend M Kehlani Souza.  
808-987-0705  
UHNDPTC  
Raising voices in NCAR  
Primo pacific risk management Ohana  
The Olohana Foundation.

On Wed, Aug 4, 2021 at 11:20 PM Hank Hawaiian <hankhawaiian@yahoo.com < Caution-mailto:hankhawaiian@yahoo.com > > wrote:

Responding to the article in the Star Advertiser (August 1, 2021) regarding lease extensions and military training on Oahu, and Hawaii Island. Your public comment is on August 10 and 11th between 6-9pm Leilehua Golf Course on OAHU. What exactly are we commenting on? Your reference site Caution-<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS> < Caution-<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS> > does not have anything there, but from the address given, apparently it is part of some Environmental Impact Statement.

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August 4th, 2021	Hanalei Fergerstrom, spokesperson
	Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe
	PO Box 951
	Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760
	808 938-9994





# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Contact: Anna Chua, Red Hill Organizer

Email: [anna.chua@sierraclub.org](mailto:anna.chua@sierraclub.org)

Telephone: (808) 278-6662

September 1st, 2021

On behalf of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i's 27,000 members and supporters, we offer these comments on the Army's upcoming [Environmental Impact Statement](#), which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly opposes the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land were seized from the Kingdom of Hawai'i during the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public.

We support the No Action Alternative which would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to restore these lands. We do not support Alternatives 1-3, all of which would perpetuate the status quo of desecrating, littering, and polluting Hawaiian land and preserve the institutionalization of land theft. As the climate crisis intensifies, Hawai'i's communities are forced to build resiliency while facing the detrimental impacts of over-tourism and commodification of natural resources, among many other crises. Committing up to 6,300 acres of stolen land to military use merely exacerbates these problems and does not rectify long-standing injustices that military training has inflicted.

As part of the public scoping process on what should be included in the Environmental Impact Statement, we agree with community members on the importance of evaluating historical harms, the cumulative impact of continued exploitation of land, and the broader impacts of occupation of these lands by the United States government and military.

1. The EIS should research and document the impacts already felt and imposed over the last 65 years in addition to the future impacts of extending the land leases. Taking into account the environmental, social, and cultural damages that the U.S. military caused throughout their presence in the islands – from Kaho'olawe to Pōhakuloa and Molokini – the U.S. military has caused far greater harm, which continues to endure, beyond the boundaries of these public land leases. The U.S. military continues to demonstrate a lack of concern in minimizing footprint and destruction to Hawai'i's environment as a whole.

2. The Army should evaluate alternative methods of building resiliency throughout Hawai'i's communities that would involve food security, economic stability, land and ocean sustainability. These would meet the purpose and need of preparing Hawai'i for mission readiness in contrast to preparing a response to an attack through armed forces and militarized violence, which put our communities at grave risk. Because the stated long-term goal of this project is to protect Hawai'i against foreign threats, the military should interpret national security to be a high quality of life for residents, and free, unimpeded, safe access to these public lands. To protect the well-being of humans and natural ecosystems, the U.S. military should recognize and fully assess the positive outcomes of the No Action Alternative -- such as the restoration of ecosystems and opportunities for education, cultural stewardship, housing, recreation. As opposed to framing the non-renewal of these public land leases as a negative impact to the Army's and other military services' ability to train in Hawai'i.
3. The Army states that public input is a valued part of the deliberative process. The EIS public scoping process should prioritize comments from community members, leaders, and organizations about how these lands are of importance to their livelihoods and the futures they envision. O'ahu's communities are the experts of public health and safety and natural and cultural resources stewardship, and whose input should be held in the highest regard when integrating comments into the decisions about this proposal.
4. The military should engage the community in a plan to restore these lands and return them to the public. Toxic chemicals and ordnance should be removed and debris, such as chaff and litter, cleaned up in ways that minimize disturbing natural features and risking public health. Appropriate ecological preservation and wildlife management also call for the integration of communities that have the expertise in land stewardship.

Training for war-making and the act of warfare proves to inflict some of the most gravely consequential environmental, social, and cultural harm globally and domestically. The U.S. military must not value Hawai'i for reasons of political expediency and perceive the land and its peoples as what the Pentagon calls the "center of the Indo-Pacific theater," but rather, prioritize building solutions to attain genuine peace and security. Avoiding the precarity of warfare necessitates halting the practice of inciting adversaries and funneling resources into building lethal force. This is why the Sierra Club supports policies to return public trust lands to indigenous stewardship whenever possible.

The federal administration's commitment to environmental justice entails the "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies," [as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has placed immense pressures on our communities on top of existing and historical injustices and inequities. Thus, it is imperative that the EIS prioritizes the voices and needs of the communities that are disproportionately affected by the military's presence in Hawai'i and that will continue to face disparate impacts should the Army be permitted to re-lease the lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer comments on the scope of the project evaluation.

# Veterans For Peace, Chapter 113-Hawai'i

O'ahu Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444  
E-mail: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

August 31, 2021

On behalf of Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawai'i, a national organization with a chapter in Hawai'i, we are submitting this statement as a part of the request for the community's input to the Environmental Impact Statement concerning the possible request from the U.S. military to continue the lease on Hawai'i state lands that they have leased for the past 65 years for only \$1.

As reported in the Star Advertiser, on August 10, 2021, Secretary of the Army Wormuth said the Army is looking to find a way to renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns.

"We absolutely want to be respectful of local community concerns and Native Hawaiian concerns and want to make sure we are listening to those and trying to address them the best we can."

This is our response to the call of the Secretary of the Army.

The July 23, 2021 environmental impact statement preparation notice from the State of Hawaii Department of Land Resources (DLNR) for the Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) of state lands at Kahuku training area (KTA), Poamoho training area (Poamoho), and Mākuā military training reservation (MMR) lists several courses of action pertaining to the possible re-leasing of state-owned lands.

As veterans of the U.S. military we know that the military budget dwarfs all other federal agencies and its possession of land, particularly in Hawai'i, is above what is necessary to maintain training requirements. The phrase "national security" is used to get anything the military wants and is a catch-all concept to shut-down an honest analysis of what is really needed by the military.

In that vein, Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawai'i strongly supports the No Action Alternative, Page 2–12 article 2.3.4. under which the Army would not retain any of the state-owned land on KTA, Poamoho, MMR and at Pohakuloa on the Island of Hawai'i after the expiration of the current lease.

We accept that under the No Action Alternative the following responsibilities will return to the State of Hawai'i. which has these responsibilities in all other state land in all the islands of the State, so it will not be anything new for the State.

Those responsibilities include funding and management conservation and public use programs in the state-owned land after expiration of the current lease will revert to the State.

Responsibilities also include management of potential archaeological sites, fire prevention and

control services, and ungulate control on state-owned lands will revert to the State.

The Army must restore the state-owned land in accordance with the lease or otherwise negotiated with the state.

In your deliberations on the EIS, we ask you to review the 2009 report "Cultural Resources Evaluation of Stryker Transformation Areas in Hawai'i" produced by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the U.S. Army which identified many cultural areas that must still be protected in 2021 and in the future.

In particular, on pages 215-287, the report identifies many cultural sites at the Kahaku Training Area.

Additionally, cultural sites in Pohakuloa are identified in the report at pages 288-297.

During the preparation of the new EIS, these sites must be re-located and checked for any damage as it has been 12 years since the 2009 report which identified them.

Again, Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawai'i strongly supports the No Action Alternative, Page 2-12 article 2.3.4. under which the Army would not retain any of the state-owned land on KTA, Poamoho, MMR and at Pohakuloa on the Island of Hawai'i after the expiration of the current lease.

Thanks you.

Ann Wright, COL (Ret), U.S. Army/Army Reserves  
Coordinator,  
Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawai'i

2333 Kapiolani Blvd #3217  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [ann Wright](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Comment for O'ahu Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) EIS  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 20:37:52 PM

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O'ahu Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) EIS Comments

P.O. Box 3444

Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

E-mail: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil) <Caution-mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil>

August 31, 2021

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The Army must restore the state-owned land in accordance with the lease or otherwise negotiated with the state.

In your deliberations on the EIS, we ask you to review the 2009 report "Cultural Resources Evaluation of Stryker Transformation Areas in Hawai'i" < Caution- <https://www.scribd.com/document/48829377/09-Monahan-Report> > produced by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the U.S. Army which identified many cultural areas that must still be protected in 2021 and in the future.

In particular, on pages 215-287, the report identifies many cultural sites at the Kahaku Training Area.

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Thank you.

Ann Wright, COL (Ret), U.S. Army/Army Reserves  
Coordinator,  
Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawai'i

2333 Kapiolani Blvd #3217  
Honolulu, HI 96826

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**From:** Jeanne Ishikawa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 13:20  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Jeanne Ishikawa  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] NB26-Comments on EISPN-Army Training Land Retention  
**Attachments:** EISPN Army Training Land Retention Comments, Sept 1.pdf

Aloha!

Please find attached comments from the Wahiawa-Whitmore Village Neighborhood Board No. 26 regarding the above-listed subject matter. This document has also been submitted via the portal listed on the EISPN document, and the original document is being mailed to the U.S. Garrison office at Schofield Barracks.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process of reviewing the EISPN and providing comments -- mahalo!

Peace,  
Jeanne Ishikawa  
Chair, WWV NB26





## WAHIAWA-WHITMORE VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 26

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817  
TEL: (808) 768-3710 • FAX: (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

August 31, 2021

U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Building 105, 3rd Floor  
Wheeler Army Airfield  
948 Santos Dumont Ave.  
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857-5013

Submittal via Portal:  
<https://atlroahueis.commentinput.com/?id=dbpiF>  
Email for receiving comments:  
[usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)  
(Original mailed via USPS)

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

EISPN - Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area,  
and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu

Aloha:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft EISPN and provide comments.

NB26 held its Regular Meeting on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Kapalama Hale, 925 Dillingham Boulevard, in Conference Room 153. On the Agenda was Item "Discussion and Vote on the US Army's O'ahu Training Land Proposal." After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to provide comments on included in this letter:

AYES: Aweau, Harvest, Ishikawa, Learmont, Manley-Koch, Mendelson, Sanchez K, Sanchez R, Umaki

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None

Here is the listing of comments from the Board as well as the community:

NB26 understands the proposed action by the U. S. Army is to "secure long-term military use of State-owned lands" which would allow the military to continue their training and combat readiness requirements. (REF: Section 1.2 and 2.2). Section 1.2 states "State lands are interspersed with U.S. Government-owned or controlled lands, much of the existing training activities could not be executed if the State lands become unavailable. The land retention methods would not be negotiated until after completion of the EIS process."

However, the U. S. Army provided four approaches, or options to this issue:

1. Under full retention, the Army would retain all State-owned lands within each training area;
2. Under modified retention, the Army would retain all State-owned lands within each training area that is required under law except lands on which limited training occurs;
3. Under minimum retention and access, the Army would retain the minimum amount of State lands to continue to meet its current ongoing training requirements;
4. Under No Action, the leases would expire in 2029 and the leased lands would not be retained.

- **Question:** Will our military be fully trained and "combat ready" working under any of Options 1-4?

NB26 understands there are here are seven primary Army training areas located on the island of O‘ahu, but only portions of three areas are being considered in the Proposed Action (see Figure 1-1). The area that NB26 is primarily focused on is :

1. Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho) – Poamoho is in central O‘ahu at the base of the Ko‘olau Mountains, just east of the community of Wahiawā, and is part of the ‘Ewa Forest Reserve. It comprises approximately 4,370 acres all of which are leased from the State (see Figure 1-3). This area is located east of Schofield Barracks, just north of the Schofield Barracks East Range (SBER), and is accessed via Schofield Barracks.
- **Questions:** What kind of impact, if any, has the military training had on the Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (environmental, ecological, historical, cultural, archaeological, erosion, native forest, endangered species, native fauna and flora, etc) over the last 65 years? What types of preservation, restoration, or educational efforts been performed in this area over the last 65 years? Hazardous or toxic waste? Do you have “before and after” photos of this area to compare the condition of the land over the last 65 years?

Section 1.5.2 states that once the EIS acceptability determination is made and the ROD is issued, the alternatives selected in the ROD can be implemented. Depending on the alternatives selected, possible decisions that may need to be made by State agencies following acceptance of the EIS include:

1. Whether to allow Army retention of the State-owned lands;
  2. What methods would be used to allow Army retention of the State-owned lands, and what terms would be associated with the selected methods;
  3. If presented with a Conservation District Use Application to permit military use of land in the State’s Conservation District, consider allowable uses and management actions to meet the purposes of the Conservation District. The need to apply for, and be issued, a Conservation District Use Permit will be determined as part of analysis in the EIS.
- **Question:** At our NB26 meeting, the question was asked IF new leases were agreed to, would the fee remain at \$1.00 (one dollar) per year or per Lease, or can the fee be higher?

#### Section 3.5.1 Air Quality

- **Question:** Please explain the following statement under this Section – what is the air quality, and what are the proposed remedies or action plans, if necessary: “Sources of air emissions at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR include exhaust from military vehicles, aircraft flight operations, generators, internal combustion engines, and prescribed burns. The Army received approval from the CAB in 2019 to burn accumulated excess propellants from various weapons systems at MMR. The burning is conducted for disposal purposes and is approved through April 2024.”

#### Section 3.14 Human Health and Safety

- **Question:** Please explain the following statements under this Section – what are the proposed remedies or action plans, if necessary: “Range control personnel have discovered UXO at KTA during training and surveys. The past use of State- owned land for military training represents the possible presence of UXO; however, no specific locations of UXO are known (USACE-POH & USAG-HI, 2017a). The potential presence of UXO, and the potential exposure to hazardous substances used in munitions, presents a potential hazard to human health and the environment.



- “There is a high likelihood of UXO on State-owned lands at MMR because past military training activities involved bombing, shelling, and small arms. UXO sweeps have been performed on State-owned land at MMR and several tons of ordnance material have been collected. UXO is occasionally encountered during Army operations and access to the State-owned land is highly restricted to maintain safety (USACE-POH & USAG-HI, 2017c).

During discussion at our NB26 meeting on August 16, Board Members asked if it would be possible for the U.S. Army to organize a site visit for the Board, to the Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area. We believe becoming more familiar with this area would help us gain a better perspective on the subject matter. Please let me know if this is possible, and we can work on organizing a date/time/transportation.

Thank you for reviewing our comments and concerns as expressed by the community and Board Members.

- NB26 has a long-standing relationship/friendship with our military partners (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines) in the Wahiawa-Whitmore areas;
- NB26 agrees having our military personnel trained and ready is important; not only to us, but to our servicemen and women themselves and to their families;
- NB26 understands there are many interested parties and various proposals regarding other uses for the State-owned properties that are currently being leased to the U. S. Army;
- And, NB26 understands the need to care for our island home, of being aware of the concern of the future of O`ahu, as well as sustainability for Hawai`i.

We look forward to working together on this process, mahalo!

Peace,



Jeanne Ishikawa  
Chair, WWV NB26

# Women's Voices Women Speak

Please see attached official statement from Women's Voices, Women Speak re: Oahu ATLR EIS.  
Mahalo, Joy Enomoto

**From:** [jenomo](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 20:48:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [Women's Voices Women Speak Statement on Army Lease Nonrenewal.pdf](#)

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Please see attached official statement from Women's Voices, Women Speak re: Oahu ATLR EIS.

Mahalo,  
Joy Enomoto

September 1, 2021

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

RE: Scoping Comments for Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands

[Women's Voices Women Speak](#) organizes for demilitarization, peace, and genuine security in Hawai'i. We are an affiliate of the [International Women's Network Against Militarism](#) established in 1997 by feminist peace activists from Okinawa, Guåhan, Puerto Rico, Vieques, the Philippines, South Korea, Turtle Island (North America), and Japan. We have visited and learned from communities devastated by U.S. militarism. We have listened to the experiences of women and children "[living alongside the fence line](#)" of U.S. military bases. We dearly love Hawai'i, our home, and our communities, just as our sisters across the Pacific love theirs. We have felt the power of sharing [our intersecting histories and cultures](#) while honoring and supporting indigenous communities and ways of life. In a world shaped by U.S. colonization and militarization, we are building relationships of connection and care.

We promote and practice a feminist vision of "genuine security" in opposition to military security, which over the last 20 years has [cost 929,000 lives globally and cost \\$8 trillion to U.S. taxpayers](#). The COVID-19 global pandemic has claimed [4.5 million](#) lives, another devastating statistic revealing that massive military spending does not protect us. The United Nations has called for a [global cease fire](#), and we must heed that call.

Genuine security requires that we face the foolishness of the path we are on. Right now our youth learn a culture of violence and domination and those with the least opportunity are recruited to go to war. Our land and waters are contaminated by military pollution, yet lands and waters of the peoples we go to war with are even more contaminated. Our planet needs an urgent revolution in values to sustain life, to ensure that people's basic needs are met, and that human dignity and sovereignty are respected.

The State currently holds four leases with the Army that will expire in 2029. This is an important opportunity to choose a common-sense path toward survival and peace. The EIS scoping process has begun, and as a community, we need to demand the EIS include the following:

1. The traumatic impacts on affected communities over the course of the 65-year lease and into the future, especially on Native Hawaiians, who have a genealogical relationship to 'āina.
2. The legal reality that significant portions of these lands are Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands that were transferred illegally in the overthrow and annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom.
3. The traumatic impacts on women and girls, who are at higher risk for [rape and sexual exploitation in a highly militarized society](#).

4. The [environmental trauma](#) (live-fire training, hazardous waste, and unexploded ordnance) to 'āina, sacred cultural sites, native ecosystems, and endangered species.
5. The many positive impacts of not renewing these leases, the "[No Action Alternative.](#)"
6. The Army states that training on these lands is "essential to their mission." The EIS must include [community testimony](#) about how these lands are essential to their own missions and visions for their communities.

Public lands should serve the public good. We adamantly oppose the continuation of \$1 / 65-year leases to the military, a bitter insult in a housing market where the median price of a home is nearly [\\$1 million](#). We call on the military to be accountable for the injustice and harm it perpetuates by:

- Cleaning up environmental contamination in former and [current military sites to safe standards for plant, animal and human life](#)
- [Moving funds from military](#) and police budgets and investing in community-driven models for education, healthcare, housing, clean energy, sustainable food systems, and social services for all
- Returning these lands to Native Hawaiian stewardship and respecting [indigenous peoples' sovereignty](#) in all realms of decision making
- Bringing justice, reparations, and healing to [victims/survivors of military violence](#)
- Bringing home troops stationed abroad and [taking care of veterans](#) when they return home

Hawai'i cannot thrive while remaining dependent on tourism and militarism. We need a life-affirming, sustainable and indigenous economy. 30,000 acres of public land at [Pōhakuloa](#), [Kahuku](#), Kawaihoa/Poamoho, and [Mākuā](#) could support jobs in agriculture, education, biocultural stewardship, culture-based science and technology, and other innovative community-driven industries.

Development should not be something we submit to. Development can be something we determine for ourselves. We can follow indigenous economic models that revitalize our ecosystems, our cultures, and our communities.

Military training devastates, destroys, and desecrates 'āina to the point that it can no longer support life. All life comes from 'āina, and we have a humble and critical role as its stewards. We oppose U.S. colonization, occupation, and militarism in Hawai'i, in the Pacific, and across the world. We oppose using 'āina as a training ground for killing abroad. We call on the U.S. military to return these lands to Native Hawaiian communities to develop models of genuine security that will lead to vibrant, abundant, safe, and sovereign futures for Hawai'i.

Kelsey Amos  
Kim Compoc  
Reyna Ramolette Hayashi  
Aiko Yamashiro  
Areerat (Aree) Worawongwasu

Grace Alvaro Caligtan  
Summer Mullins-Ibrahim  
Rebekah Garrison  
CJ Kee  
Dani Ortíz Padilla  
Ellen-Rae Cachola  
Nic Santos  
Malaya Caligtan-Tran  
Joy Enomoto  
Terrilee Keko'olani-Raymond



# Women's Voices Women Speak

Women in Hawai'i working toward a demilitarized, peaceful and non-violent world

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## About Us

Welcome,

This is the blog of Women's Voices Women Speak (WVWS), a collective of women in Hawai'i who address local and international issues relating to demilitarization, peace and non-violence.

We are the Hawai'i based partner of the International Women's Network Against Militarism. WVWS affirms the principles of genuine security.

-->

### What is Genuine Security?

By the International Women's Network Against Militarism  
<http://www.genuinesecurity.org/aboutus/whatisGS.html>

Security is often thought of as "national security" or "military security". We believe that militarism undermines everyday security for many people and for the environment. Following the United Nations Development Program report of 1994, we argue that genuine security arises from the following principles:

1. The physical environment must be able to sustain human and natural life;
2. People's basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education must be guaranteed;
3. People's fundamental human dignity should be honored and cultural identities respected;
4. People and the natural environment should be protected from avoidable harm.

**Working for genuine security means:**

## Digital HerStories

Opening montage for Women Against Militarism: Reclaiming Life, Land and Spirit, 1st production of WVWS directed and produced by Bernadette Gigi Miranda (2004)

- Valuing people and having confidence in their potential to live in life-affirming ways
- Building a strong personal core that enables us to work with “others” across lines of significant difference through honest and open dialogue
- Respecting differences based on gender, race, and culture, rather than using these attributes to objectify “others” as inferior
- Relying on spiritual values to make connections with others
- Creating relationships of care so that children and young people feel needed and gain respect for themselves and each other through meaningful participation in community projects, decision making, and work
- Redefining manhood to include nurturing and caring for others. Men’s sense of wellbeing, pride, belonging, competence, and security should come from activities and institutions and that are life affirming
- Valuing cooperation over competition
- Eliminating gross inequalities of wealth between countries and between people within countries
- Eliminating oppressions based on gender, race, class, heterosexuality, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, able body-ism, and other significant differences
- Building genuine democracy — locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally — with local control of resources and appropriate education to participate fully
- Valuing the complex ecological web that sustains human beings and of which we are all a part
- Ending all forms of colonialism and occupation

### Herstory

Since 2004, WVWS has organized delegations to participate in the IWNAM meetings to build solidarity with other women's movements who also organize for demilitarization, peace and genuine security in their countries. Please read about our experiences below:

[WVWS Attended 5th East Asia U.S. Puerto Rico Women's Network Against Militarism Meeting, in the Philippines](#)

[WVWS Attends 6th IWNAM meeting in the Bay Area](#)

IWNAM Hawa...



Mapping Hist...



NA WAHINE ...




**WVWS808 Fan Box**


WVWS to attend 7th IWNAM meeting in Guam  
WVWS to attend 8th IWNAM Meeting Puerto Rico

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**Women's Voices, W**  
last Thursday

Happy birthday to founding m and DPs Darlene Rodrigues! HSA published our op-ed tod fold! [#genuinesecurity](#)

2

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Sh

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## Blog Archive

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## Network Websites

- ◆ [The Pinky Show](#)
- ◆ [Maria Reinat's Blog](#)
- ◆ [No Base Stories of Korea](#)
- ◆ [CEJE](#)
- ◆ [7th IWNAM Meeting in Guam](#)
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- ◆ [Okinawa Peace Network of Los Angeles](#)
- ◆ [Asia Japan Women's Resource Center](#)
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Menu

# A Feminist Vision of Genuine Security and Creating a Culture of Life

*Posted April 13, 2021 by by sidadepaz*

# A Feminist Vision of Genuine Security and Creating a Culture of *Life*

The International Women's Network Against Militarism calls local and international communities to stand steadfast in advocating for genuine security, despite the stubborn grip of police and militarized security in and across nations of the world.

**W**OMEN of the IWNAM — Guahan, Okinawa, Hawai'i, Korea, Philippines, Japan, and US — have come together to affirm our principles of genuine security:

- 1) Safeguard the Environment to Sustain Life
- 2) Meet Basic Human Needs
- 3) Respect for Human Dignity
- 4) Respect for Peoples' Sovereignty
- 5) Prevent Avoidable Harm

Through the act of proclaiming and affirming the vision of genuine security in our communities, we strengthen our relationships and resolve to make it real, across all our communities and generations. Come join us for calls to action, artistic and interactive presentations, poetry, and music.

— *Members of the International Women's Network Against Militarism*

**Join  
us:**

**April 16: HAWAII:** 4 - 6 PM  
U.S. PST: 7 - 9PM  
U.S. EST: 10PM - 12AM

**April 17: PHILIPPINES:** 10AM - 12PM  
KOREA/OKINAWA/JAPAN: 11:00 - 1PM  
GUAM/GUAHAN: 12 - 2PM

**Register Here:** <https://tinyurl.com/IWNAMApril>

JAPANESE AND KOREAN INTERPRETATION PROVIDED • MORE INFO: [OKAZAWA@COMCAST.NET](mailto:OKAZAWA@COMCAST.NET)



THE INTERNATIONAL  
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WILPF Kyoto — Japan  
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Women for Genuine Security — US  
Women Voices, Women Speak Hawai'i — Hawai'i

Please register for the April 16/17, 2021 event on EventBrite translated into Korean/Japanese/English:

Korean: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/150639776627>

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English: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/149601430907>

(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/149601430907>).

The proclamation event of the IWNAM Feminist Vision of Genuine Security on April 16/17 is based on the statement below:

### **A Feminist Vision of Genuine Security and Creating a Culture of Life**

by the International Women's Network against Militarism

April 1, 2021

The International Women's Network Against Militarism was started in 1997 by feminist peace activists from Okinawa, the Philippines, South Korea, continental United States and mainland Japan to address problems caused by the US military presence in these areas by sharing the experiences of women and children living alongside US military bases – or former bases. Over the years, the Network has grown to include feminist peace activists from Puerto Rico, Guåhan (Guam) and Hawai'i who introduced Indigenous anti-colonial perspectives.

We realize the need to articulate a feminist vision of genuine security in opposition to military security. State security must be aligned with people's security and not undermine it. As it stands, people remain in need of clean water, food, housing, and medical care. The massive militarization of the globe is rooted in creating vulnerability and insecurity. As a result, state leaders have placed great focus on the development of the military, with the United States taking the lead in military spending globally.

We define militarism as a system of beliefs, political priorities and economic investments. Militarism includes the activities of corporations that produce and sell weapons, the role of state militaries—including state-sanctioned violence, martial law, repression, extra-judicial killings, military coups, and military dominance within governments—as well as non-state militias. Militarism is shored up by patriarchy and reinforces violent masculinity. Military sexual violence is a manifestation of this synergy between militarism and patriarchy.

Militarism cannot solve the coronavirus pandemic, the global climate crisis, or poverty and hunger caused by current economic policies and the actions of totalitarian governments. Militarized police violence, especially against migrants and other disenfranchised



chised communities all evidence the fact that militarism and war do not and cannot provide genuine security for people or the planet.

Genuine security requires the following guarantees: that the environment can sustain life; people's basic needs are met; human dignity is respected; people's sovereignty is assured; and society is organized so as to prevent avoidable harms. We expand on each of these points below.

### **Safeguarding the Environment to Sustain Life**

A sustainable environment is key to genuine security. Militarism and preparations for war take land that could be used for growing food and other generative uses. Military bases and operations have polluted land and water with oils, solvents, jet fuel, herbicides, and other hazards. Wars have reduced land to rubble and destroyed essential infrastructure like power lines, irrigation systems, and sewers, most recently in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, military use of fossil fuels and creation of carbon contribute to climate change.

Sustaining the environment means returning occupied lands to people who have been displaced- most of whom are indigenous peoples such as in Okinawa, Hawaii, Guåhan, and Diego Garcia (Indian Ocean). This also entails cleaning up environmental contamination at current and former military sites, such as Kaho'olawe (HI), Vieques (Puerto Rico), Maehyangri (South Korea), Angeles and Olongapo (Philippines), Farallon de Medillina (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Bikini, Enewetak, and Rongelap atolls (Marshall Islands). Victims of military contamination need health care and compensation for all they have suffered. This includes the multi-generational impact on the planet and people that have been destroyed by nuclear tests and by the use of nuclear weapons in war. Genuine security involves supporting people who are farming sustainably, protecting land and water, and restoring wetlands and fishponds- efforts that are often led by Indigenous peoples who are reestablishing the infrastructure for food security.

### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Everyone needs clean water, affordable housing, access to food, health care, and education to be assured survival and well-being. Meeting these basic needs should be recognized as the fundamental security and should be the priority of security policies of all countries. Militarized security has allocated overwhelmingly more resources to maintaining and even expanding military activities as well as developing lethal weapons including those that kill masses of people like nuclear weapons. In 2019 world spending on wars and preparations for war reached \$1,917 billion, or \$1.9 trillion, an obscene amount of money by any measure.<sup>1</sup> The United States—which maintains around 1,000 bases overseas—spent 38% of that staggering total. This was



almost 50% of the US discretionary budget and more than the next 10 countries combined,<sup>2</sup> or approximately \$2 billion dollars a day. Many other countries spend more on their militaries than on health care or education. Limited resources allocated to basic needs have made most people's lives insecure.

The COVID pandemic is a clear evidence of the fundamental failure of militarized state security. It has revealed the wrong priorities for resource allocation and has shown the limitations of the current system to provide for basic human needs. The pandemic has exposed the huge inequalities in wealth and income, and the severe limitations of current systems of care. Caring for children, elders, those who are sick, and people with physical and mental disabilities falls disproportionately on women's shoulders. Often this work is not paid, or wages are low. The economy must be reorganized to provide for people's basic needs rather than profit-making. Government budgets—in other words, taxpayers' money—must be redirected from the police and the military to unmet human needs. For example, education should be invested in to train youth in "care" economies, and to not funnel them into militarized or "punishment" economies.

### **Respect for Human Dignity**

Right wing nationalist groups and governments use systems of hatred, violence and discrimination based on people's racial and ethnic identities, immigration status, gender expression, sexual orientation and political beliefs. Respecting human dignity and integrity means learning about each other's histories and experiences, and using media (in all its forms) to show people's humanity rather than empty caricatures and stereotypes. It also means respecting women, gender nonconforming, and trans people and working toward ending their second-class status in many societies.

When people are a vital part of the governmental decision making processes and have prior and informed consent, and are not just treated as tokens, respect for human dignity is apparent. To this end, laws and policies that uphold human rights must be in place and they must be implemented to ensure justice and human dignity. Women, trans, and queer people have the right to control our own bodies, free from harm and sexual violence. Respecting the human dignity of women, trans, and queer people means resisting the sexual violence that is integral to military structures and values.

### **Respect for Peoples' Sovereignty**

Countries should be able to develop foreign policies independent of the United States. This should include the United States respecting others' sovereignty and culture. Militarism is the brute force used to colonize peoples and to exploit their resources. This includes the subjugation of peoples in order to occupy their lands, the exploitation of natural resources, and the intentional imposition of one's ways of life on another. Assimilation policies and practices are in violation of international laws and norms that honor and respect peoples' right to

self-determination. In addition, neocolonial relationships promote the continued colonization of peoples and their lands, which violate peoples' sovereignty.

Indigenous peoples (IPs) have suffered the disrespect of their sovereignty with land dispossession for the use of military bases. According to Article 30 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: "Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples..." IPs from throughout the world, including those in Australia, the Americas, Guåhan, Hawai'i, Okinawa, and the Philippines, have the collective right to the self-determination of their lands, territories, and resources by providing free, prior, and informed consent.

### **Preventing Avoidable Harm**

Security is still largely characterized in policies as protection from external threats and protecting "us" from "them." State security policies have long focused on war as the threat and made us believe that the national security policies need to prepare for warfare which is argued as inevitable in real politics.

This notion has allowed for the military to be given unchecked power and resources, and has sanctioned violent masculine power as superior and necessary. War as a result of competing power can be avoided if more efforts are sought for diplomacy. If we can prevent war, we can prevent civilian casualties and save the lives of soldiers. Diplomacy should be considered first and the only choice.

Whereas assuring security should mean protection of people, a fundamental question should be asked as to what makes people vulnerable and how to prevent them. The global pandemic of COVID-19 has revealed that massive military force does not protect us and has shown what we are vulnerable to. Governments have allowed the coronavirus to spread, making sure that vulnerable people—especially people of color in the Global North and in the Global South – suffer and die. So-called "natural disasters" like storms, heat waves, and floods, are often caused by corporate activities with support from governments. Climate crisis can be changed with political will and redistribution of resources to prevent and respond to natural disasters. Sexual violence can be eliminated with increased respect for human dignity. Demilitarization would eliminate military sexual violence against people in communities around US bases, and also within the military. Military policies are not only insufficient but actually create insecurity. Much of the harm people currently experience could be avoided if societies were not organized around military dependence and over-investment.

Based on these principles we call for demilitarization and peace and an end to military expansion globally. This includes:

Developing national, independent foreign policies that promote peace, people, and protection of the planet.

Centering diplomacy as the primary mechanism to address international tensions as an alternative to war and militarism.

Cancelling major multinational military operations across the US Department of Defense-designated “Indo-Pacific” region, such as RIMPAC (Hawai’i); Foal Eagle and Key Resolve (South Korea); Valiant Shield and Cope North (Guåhan/Hawai’i); Talisman Saber (Australia); Balikatan (Philippines); Cobra Gold (Thailand); and Malabar (Australia, India, and Japan).

Bringing home troops stationed in foreign countries.

Ending the killing of innocent civilians caught in the cross-fires of military operations.

Cancelling military build-ups in Guåhan, Okinawa, Hawai’i

Bringing justice to victims/survivors of military sexual violence.

Cleaning up environmental contamination in former and current military spaces to safe standards for human life.

Halting massive military recruitment in poor communities.

Enacting laws that fund educational programs to create opportunities for youth from poor communities to have thriving livelihoods.

Decolonizing all non-self-governing territories and respecting the right of all peoples to self-determination

Ending police violence and brutality.

Upholding the respect for peoples’ sovereignty in all realms of decisionmaking.

Moving funds from military and police budgets and investing communities including: education, health care, housing, social service programs for all.

The International Women’s Network Against Militarism stands firmly in this framework of genuine security and in solidarity with others toward these goals.

## Notes

1. <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2020/global-military-expenditure-sees-largestannual-increase-decade-says-sipri-reaching-1917-billion>  
(<https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2020/global-military-expenditure-sees-largestannual-increase-decade-says-sipri-reaching-1917-billion>)

[https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053\\_defense-comparison](https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053_defense-comparison)  
([https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053\\_defense-comparison](https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053_defense-comparison)).

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## **The U.S. Budgetary Costs of the Post-9/11 Wars**

**Neta C. Crawford<sup>1</sup>**  
**Boston University**

**September 1, 2021**

### ***Overview***

The United States, over the last two decades, has already spent and the Biden administration has requested about \$5.8 trillion in reaction to the 9/11 attacks.<sup>2</sup> This includes the estimated direct and indirect costs of spending in the United States post-9/11 war zones, homeland security efforts for counterterrorism, and interest payments on war borrowing. Costs for medical care and disability payments for veterans is the largest long-term expense of the post-9/11 wars. As research by Linda Bilmes shows, future medical care and disability payments for veterans, over the next decades, will likely exceed \$2.2 trillion in federal spending. Including estimate future costs for veteran's care, the total budgetary costs and future obligations of the post-9/11 wars is thus about \$8 trillion in current dollars.

Of course, this report on the budgetary impact of the counterterror wars is not the full story of the costs and consequences of the post-9/11 wars. Behind every one of these numbers are people—inspecting containers for possible weapons of mass destruction, deploying overseas, and caring for veterans. Included in these numbers is an acknowledgment of death: behind the decimal point of estimated total costs, \$704 million has been spent on death gratuities for the survivors of the 7,040 men and women in the military who were killed in the war zones. And there is also money the U.S. has provided in compensation to the civilians injured and killed in these wars.

This estimate includes the amount requested in May 2021 by the Biden administration for FY2022. It does not include the additional money members of Congress have suggested

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<sup>1</sup> Neta C. Crawford is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Boston University and a Co-Director of the Costs of War Project.

<sup>2</sup> All the costs reported here are in current dollars.

that they may appropriate for the DOD for the FY2022 request. Nor does it include all the money provided for humanitarian assistance and economic development aid in Afghanistan and Iraq.<sup>3</sup> It does *not* include the future costs of interest payments on borrowing to pay for the post-9/11 wars after FY2023. It does not include spending by the dozens of United States allies, including Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Germany and France. If the U.S. had not had the support of those allies, it would likely have spent more on those wars (and arguably taken more casualties).<sup>4</sup> This estimate also does not include spending by state and local governments within the U.S. for counterterrorism or services for post-9/11 war veterans.

There has been no single U.S. government estimate for the total costs of the post-9/11 wars. There are *partial* accounts of post-9/11 war costs. For example, starting in FY2017, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been required to report the estimated costs of the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria to each taxpayer and since then, the DOD regularly produces a tabulation of the “Estimated Cost to Each Taxpayer for the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.”<sup>5</sup> In March of 2021, the Department of Defense concluded in their most recent public estimate that emergency/overseas contingency operations (OCO) spending for the wars in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan cost a total of \$1.596 Trillion, or \$8,094 per taxpayer through FY 2020. However, as the DOD notes, “these amounts exclude non-Department of Defense classified programs.”<sup>6</sup> On August 16, 2021, as the U.S. exited Afghanistan, President Biden said, “We spent over a trillion dollars.”<sup>7</sup> This is, of course, correct, — if we focus *only* on what the DOD was appropriated for the Afghanistan war and leave out other major costs, perhaps most importantly, the costs of caring for the post-9/11 war veterans.

One of the major purposes of the Costs of War Project has been to provide a more comprehensive view of federal war appropriations and expenses, to clarify the types of budgetary costs of the U.S. post-9/11 wars, how the post-9/11 operations have been funded, and the long-term implications of past and current operations on spending. The costs of the post-9/11 wars include direct appropriations for operations in the war zones, additional expenses incurred by the Department of Defense in the “base” military budget, spending to defend the “homeland,” and spending for veteran’s medical and disability care. Moreover, the costs associated with the wars include the interest payments made on borrowing to pay for the wars. Further, because the U.S. continues other counterterror operations, and the

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<sup>3</sup> For instance, this accounting of State Department spending does not include more than a billion dollars in USAID and State Department funds appropriated since 2002 for Development Assistance, Global Health Programs, Human Rights and Democracy, and Transition Initiatives in Afghanistan.

<sup>4</sup> See Jason W. Davidson. (2021). “The Costs of War to United States Allies Since 9/11,” *Costs of War Project*, [https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2021/Davidson\\_AlliesCostsofWar\\_Final.pdf](https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2021/Davidson_AlliesCostsofWar_Final.pdf).

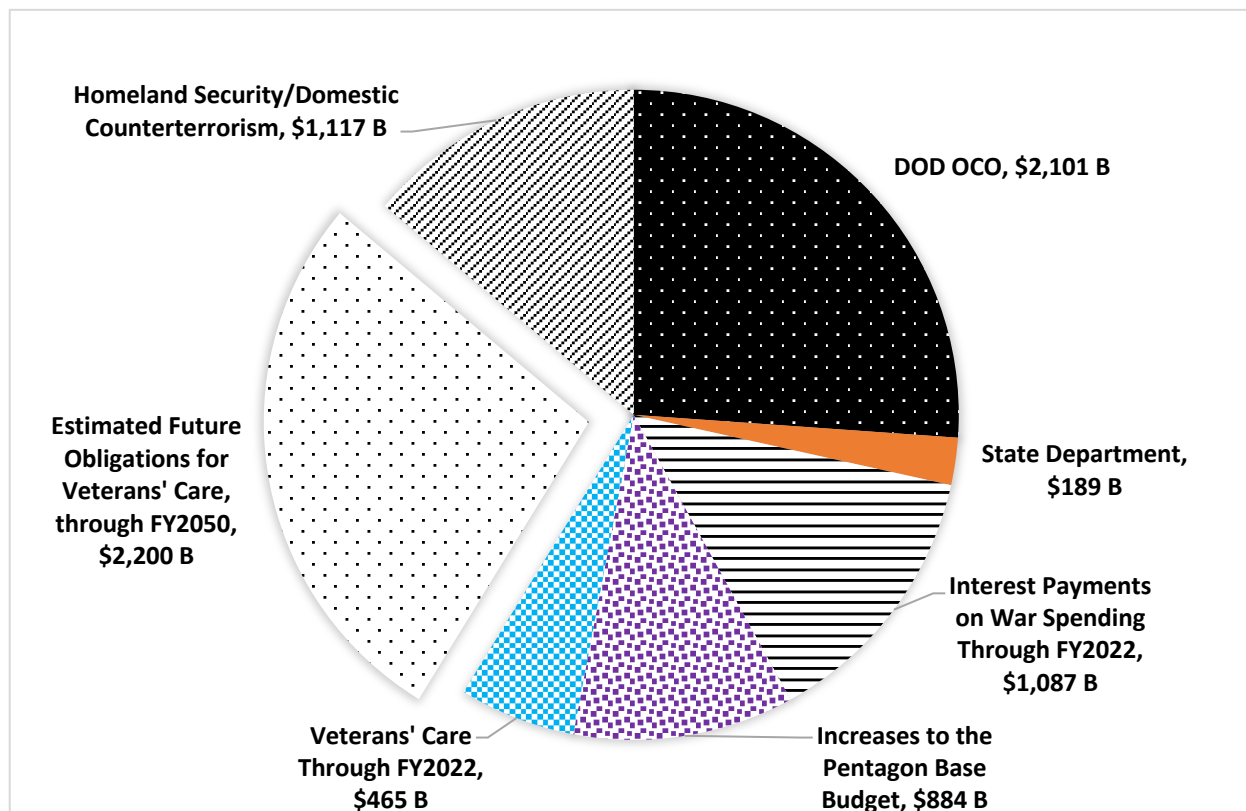
<sup>5</sup> Public Law 114-328, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Defense, “Estimated Costs to Each U.S. Taxpayer of Each of the Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria,” March 2021. [https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/Section1090Reports/Estimated\\_Cost\\_to\\_Each\\_U.S.\\_Taxpayer\\_of\\_Each\\_of\\_the\\_Wars\\_in\\_Afghanistan,\\_Iraq\\_and\\_Syria\\_dated\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/Section1090Reports/Estimated_Cost_to_Each_U.S._Taxpayer_of_Each_of_the_Wars_in_Afghanistan,_Iraq_and_Syria_dated_March_2021.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> President Joseph Biden. (August 16, 2021). “Read the Full Transcript of President Biden’s Remarks on Afghanistan,” *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/16/us/politics/biden-taliban-afghanistan-speech.html>.

costs of caring for veterans and interest on borrowing will continue, the budgetary costs do not end when the fighting in the major war zones stops.

**Figure 1. Post-9/11 War Related Spending FY2001-FY22 & Obligations for Future Veterans' Care (in Current Dollars)**



This estimate includes the figures for U.S. wars in the two major war zones and many small war zones. Not including the future obligations to care for veterans through 2050 or estimated homeland security spending, the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which is part of the same theater of operations, cost \$2.313 trillion through FY2022. The U.S. wars in Iraq and Syria cost \$2.058 trillion through FY2022.<sup>8</sup> The post-9/11 wars and counterterror operations in other places, such as Somalia and other parts of Africa, cost about \$355 billion. (See Table 2 on p. 14 of this report).

The figures given here are a conservative *best estimate* through fiscal year 2022 in current dollars. At this writing the U.S. has said it will stay in Afghanistan until August 31, 2021 to evacuate all American citizens who wish to leave Afghanistan, and many of the Afghans who worked with them. The costs associated with a massive airlift effort in Afghanistan may increase the FY2021 costs of war in Afghanistan for the DOD and State Department. It is unclear how recent events in Afghanistan will affect the FY2022 budget requests for DOD and State.

<sup>8</sup> Assuming Congress grants the Biden Administration requests for these wars.

This best estimate relies on public sources. The public and Congress has lost some transparency on government spending—in particular for the Department of Homeland Security. Where, as noted below, it is difficult to find information, the assumptions for the estimates are given in the footnotes and discussed in the text.

The numbers and occasionally categories are revised in the Costs of War estimates by this author when the U.S. government provides more precise, corrected, or comprehensive information.<sup>9</sup> For example, this report relies on updated DOD spending data. The DOD has recently, as discussed below, used the categories of “OCO for base requirements,” and “enduring requirements,” which could apply to more than one war zone. Further, this report uses newer interest rate data in calculating the estimated interest on borrowing for emergency/overseas contingency operations (OCO) spending.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, this report revises the estimate of increases to the Pentagon base budget given changes in the Department of Defense’s categories and patterns of military spending and the relations between the OCO budget and base military spending.

## ***Context***

On September 11, 2001, al Qaeda hijacked four American civilian aircraft and attacked New York’s World Trade Center and the Pentagon in assaults as shocking as they were horrific; nearly 3,000 people died, including those who resisted and brought down their plane in Pennsylvania. Many more were wounded. The next day, at their National Security Council meeting, participants decided that the threat would be defined, in Secretary of State Colin Powell’s words, as “terrorism in its broadest sense.” President Bush agreed: the U.S. would, “start with bin Laden” and move on.<sup>11</sup> As Vice President Dick Cheney said in public a few days after the attacks, “things have changed since last Tuesday. The world’s shifted in some respects . . . because of what happened in New York and what happened in Washington, it’s a qualitatively different set of circumstances.”<sup>12</sup> The U.S. responded by reorienting its national security strategy to focus on terrorism and “violent extremism” in wars fought by four United States presidents.

In 2010, economists Adam Rose and S. Brock Blomberg surveyed economists’ estimates of the total economic impact of the 9/11 attacks: the estimates ranged between \$35 billion and \$109 billion. Rose and Blomberg suggested that because the overall U.S. economy is

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<sup>9</sup> The work of Winslow Wheeler and Amy Belasco, and the analysis of other members of the Costs of War Project, notably the economists Linda Bilmes and Heidi Peltier, and the anthropologists Catherine Lutz, David Vine and Stephanie Savell have helped provide the essential context for the production of these estimates. The Costs of War Project will continue to refine its estimates as new information or clarifications are made available by the relevant U.S. government departments and agencies, and by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

<sup>10</sup> As noted above, interest rates fluctuate and U.S. debt is refinanced.

<sup>11</sup> Bob Woodward, *Bush at War* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002) p. 43.

<sup>12</sup> Vice President Cheney on NBC’s, “Meet the Press,” 16 September 2001. Transcript, *The Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/specials/attacked/transcripts/cheney091601.html>.



resilient, the attacks were not as economically harmful as they might have been. However, Rose and Blomberg argued, “subsequent anti-terrorist initiatives at home and abroad were more costly than the direct damage caused by the attack.”<sup>13</sup>

Indeed, the U.S. reaction to the 9/11 attacks was comprehensive—a “global war on terror” abroad and mobilization of homeland security which included everything from increased border security on land, sea, and air, to research on potential bioweapons that terrorists might deploy, to the hardening of critical assets that might be subject to terrorist attack. The ripple effects of the war on terror in veterans spending have already been enormous and they will continue to grow because the post-9/11 war veterans are claiming disability benefits at very high rates. Further, the U.S. financed these wars in a way like no other war in U.S. history—going into deficit spending—rather than raising taxes or selling large numbers of war bonds.<sup>14</sup>

Optimistic assumptions have, from the beginning, been characteristic of the official estimates of the effectiveness, duration, budgetary costs, and the fiscal consequences of the post-9/11 wars. There were no public estimates for the costs of the Afghanistan war, little discussion of its escalation into Pakistan, and hardly any discussion of the escalation of the global war on terror into Africa and Asia. In mid-September 2002 Lawrence Lindsey, then President Bush's chief economic adviser, estimated that the “upper bound” costs of war against Iraq would be \$100 to \$200 billion. Overall, Lindsey suggested however that, “The successful prosecution of the war would be good for the economy.”<sup>15</sup> On December 31, 2002, Mitch Daniels, then the director of the Office of Management and Budget estimated that the costs of war with Iraq would be \$50-60 billion.<sup>16</sup> Neither Bush administration official provided details for the basis of their estimates.

There were other estimates of the costs of the major post 9/11 wars which took account of the likely much longer time-line of costs. In September 2002 U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Budget Committee staff estimated costs of \$48-93 Billion if ten year costs are included.<sup>17</sup> Later in 2002, Yale economist William Nordhaus suggested that while the main component of costs could be higher oil prices if the war were to be protracted and difficult, a long war could cost \$140 billion in direct military spending and another \$615 billion to pay for occupation, peacekeeping, reconstruction and nation-building, and humanitarian

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<sup>13</sup> Adam Z. Rose and S. Brock Blomberg. (2010). “Total Economic Consequences of Terrorist Attacks: Insights from 9/11,” *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*, vol. 16, no. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Linda J. Bilmes. (2017). “The Credit Card Wars: Post-9/11 War Funding Policy in Historical Perspective”. Costs of War Project, <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2017/Linda%20Bilmes%20Credit%20Card%20Wars%20FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Lindsey, quoted in Wall Street Journal, 15 September 2002.

<sup>16</sup> Elizabeth Bumiller. (December, 31 2002). “Threats and Responses: The Cost; White House Cuts Estimates of Cost of War with Iraq,” *The New York Times*.

<sup>17</sup> Democratic Caucus of the House Budget Committee. (September 23, 2002). Assessing the Costs of Military Action Against Iraq: Using Desert Shield/Desert Storm as Basis for Estimates: An Analysis by the House Budget Committee Democratic Staff. <https://usiraq.procon.org/sourcefiles/DHBC.pdf>.

assistance.<sup>18</sup> The most comprehensive estimate of the long-term budgetary costs of the wars—both of direct and indirect spending and other economic effects—is *The Three Trillion Dollar War* by Joseph E. Stiglitz and Linda J. Bilmes.<sup>19</sup> The Stiglitz-Bilmes estimate was conservative in many respects. Due to their long duration, the costs of the post-9/11 wars have exceeded all these estimates.

### ***Discussion of Best Estimates and Long-Term Trends***

This research paper focuses on five broad categories of U.S. budgetary costs that were incurred in reaction to the 9/11 attacks or as a response to terrorism broadly understood. Table 1 summarizes these costs.

1. Emergency War/ “Overseas Contingency Operations” appropriations for the DOD and State Departments.
2. Estimated interest on borrowing for DOD and State Department OCO spending.
3. War-related increases to the DOD “base” budget due to the post-9/11 wars.
4. Medical and disability care for post-9/11 veterans and the associated cost of increasing the VA’s capacity to manage this care.
5. Homeland Security spending for preventing potential terrorist attacks and preparations for responding to those attacks, should they occur.

**Table 1. Estimated Costs of Post 9-11 Wars, FY 2001-FY2022 and Future Veterans’ Costs, in Billions of Current Dollars, Rounded to the Nearest Billion**

	<b>\$ Billions</b>
War/Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Appropriations	
Department of Defense (including \$42 billion request for FY2022) <sup>20</sup>	2,101
State Department/USAID (including an \$8 billion appropriation for FY2022) <sup>21</sup>	189
Interest on Borrowing for DOD and State Dept. OCO Spending <sup>22</sup>	1,087

<sup>18</sup> William D. Nordhaus. (2002). “The Economic Consequences of a War with Iraq,” in American Academy of Arts and Sciences, *War With Iraq, Costs, Consequences, and Alternatives* (Cambridge: American Academy of Arts and Sciences). pp. 51-86.

<sup>19</sup> Joseph E. Stiglitz and Linda J. Bilmes. (2008). *The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Costs of the Iraq Conflict* (New York: Norton)

<sup>20</sup> All Emergency/Overseas Contingency Operations Appropriations. Source: Department of Defense, Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller. <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>. Although it removed OCO as a category, the Biden administration FY2022 budget request identified \$42 billion in OCO.

<sup>21</sup> For Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria. See Cory R. Gill, Marian Lawson, Emily Morgenstern, (March 18, 2021). Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs: FY2021 Budget and Appropriations,” *Congressional Research Service*, R46367. Sources include: McGarry and Morgenstern, *Overseas Contingency Operations Funding: Background and Status*,” and K. Alan Kronstadt, and Susan B. Epstein, (2019, March 12). *Direct Overt U.S. Aid Appropriations for and Military Reimbursements to Pakistan, FY 2002-FY2020*. CRS, <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/pakaid.pdf>. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, Quarterly Reports, <https://www.sigar.mil/quarterlyreports/index.aspx?SSR=6>.

<sup>22</sup> Source: Interest rate calculations by Heidi Peltier. For Peltier’s methods, see Heidi Peltier, (2020). *The Cost of Debt-financed War: Public Debt and Rising Interest for Post-9/11 War Spending*,” Costs of War Project. <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2020/Peltier%202020%20->

Increases to DOD Base Budget Due to Post-9-11 Wars <sup>23</sup>	884
Post-9/11 Veterans' Medical and Disability Through FY2022 <sup>24</sup>	465
Homeland Security Prevention and Response to Terrorism <sup>25</sup>	1,117
<b>Total War Appropriations and War-Related Spending through FY2022</b>	<b>\$5,843</b>
Estimated Future Obligations for Veterans Medical and Disability, FY2023–FY2050 <sup>26</sup>	c.2,200
<b>Total War-Related Spending through FY2022 and Estimated Obligations for Veterans' Care through 2050</b>	<b>\$8,043</b>

The post-9/11 wars have largely been budgeted as emergency appropriations or “Overseas Contingency Operations.” These consist of U.S. Congressional appropriations for the Department of Defense (DOD) and State Department in the named operations in the major war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq, and in smaller war zones and areas where the U.S. has engaged in counterterrorism operations since 9/11.<sup>27</sup> Spending in the major war zones, discussed more fully below, accounts for about 92 percent of total DOD OCO spending. The rest of the OCO spending occurs in other geographic areas or is used to support operations in the major war zones. The DOD has taken to calling some of its OCO spending in the Central Command region “enduring” costs; these have been split evenly between the major war zones in the current estimate.

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[%20The%20Cost%20of%20Debt-financed%20War.pdf](#). The OCO spending used here to calculate interest payments is conservative figure, based on the lower numbers reported by DOD and State for OCO; they do not include OCO for the base, which are later in the paper attributed to the war zones.

<sup>23</sup> These include: spending on other operations, such as Operation Noble Eagle after 2004; the effects of post-9/11 war related increased healthcare costs for active duty soldiers; and higher pay to attract and retain soldiers. This figure is estimated as a portion of the DOD OCO budget at 50 percent from FY2001–2011, 40 percent from FY 2012–2018, and 25 percent in FY2019 and 20 percent from FY2020–FY2022.

<sup>24</sup> Source: Bilmes estimate ranges from 2.2 to 2.5 trillion for 2001–2050. We know that this is an underestimate because the wars are not over — there will be more veterans in the VA System. Linda Bilmes. (August 18, 2021). “The Long-Term Costs of Caring for Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars,” Costs of War Project.

[https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2021/Costs%20of%20War\\_Bilmes\\_Long-Term%20Costs%20of%20Care%20for%20Vets\\_Aug%202021.pdf](https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2021/Costs%20of%20War_Bilmes_Long-Term%20Costs%20of%20Care%20for%20Vets_Aug%202021.pdf). Bilmes estimate is conservative, and does not include the costs of medical benefits for military contractors whose medical benefits may be cared for through the Defense Base Act and the Department of Labor. Also see Linda J. Bilmes. (2016). A Trust Fund for Veterans. *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, no. 39. Retrieved from

<http://democracyjournal.org/magazine/39/a-trust-fund-for-veterans/> and Linda J. Bilmes. (2013). *The Financial Legacy of Iraq and Afghanistan: How Wartime Spending Decisions Will Cancel Out the Peace Dividend*. Costs of War,

<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2013/The%20Financial%20Legacy%20of%20Iraq%20and%20Afghanistan.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> As discussed below, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security stopped reporting detailed information on U.S. spending on counterterrorism operations, in 2018. This estimate is based on DHS budgets as analyzed by the CRS and assuming that spending is consistent since 2017. See William L. Painter, 8 October 2019, *Selected Homeland Security Issues in the 116 Congress*, CRS.

<sup>26</sup> Source: Bilmes. (2021). “The Long-Term Costs of Caring for Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.”

<sup>27</sup> In 2012, the State Department also began to call its war related spending. Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). During the Biden Administration, the category of OCO spending was eliminated and the DOD’s war spending was put into the base military budget. State Department spending in the war zones.

These wars were not financed by a war tax, or by selling large numbers of war bonds, and while the U.S. had a balanced budget in 2001, the U.S. began to run a budget deficit in 2002. As a result, the costs associated with the wars include interest payments on this debt. Interest rates have, for many years, been at historic lows and portions of the debt have been refinanced since the 2008 financial crisis on a rolling basis as it has been possible for the U.S. Treasury to do so. Further, it is important to note that an estimate of the future costs of interest over the next several decades are *not included* in this estimate because they are like estimated past interest payments, subject to refinancing and other factors which cannot be predicted. On the whole, however, the costs of interest on borrowing to pay for the wars will continue to be large unless or until Congress decides to pay for the post-9/11 wars through taxes or war bonds.

The Pentagon's "base" budget is intended to fund enduring costs of the Department of Defense and the armed services, that would be incurred even if the U.S. were not at war. The Pentagon's "base" budget includes costs of personnel, including health care, and the costs of research and development, procurement, operations, military construction and housing, and equipment maintenance. The long mobilization has contributed to increased spending in the base budget. Specifically, while Congress intended war spending to be separate from base military spending, war spending has tended to inflate base military spending. This is illustrated in Figure 2. Overall, the base military budget has more than doubled between Fiscal Year 2001 and 2022. So, even when spending on the post-9/11 wars and other military operations has declined, Department of Defense base budget spending has trended upward.

Part of the increase in base budget spending is perhaps driven by the rally around the flag effect—where members of Congress during the Bush and Obama administrations wanted to be seen to be supporting the U.S. troops as they engaged in war. For instance, President Obama requested \$663.8 billion in FY2010. Congress appropriated \$691 billion.<sup>28</sup> The practice of Congress awarding more money to the Pentagon than requested by Defense Department continued through the Trump Administration. In March 2018, for example, Congress appropriated \$61 billion more than the DOD requested.<sup>29</sup> In July 2021, members of the Senate indicated that they wanted to give more money to the DOD than the Biden Administration requested, perhaps as much as \$25 billion over the amount requested by Biden.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Congressional Research Service, "Defense: FY2010 Authorization and Appropriations," CRS, R40567. [https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20091223\\_R40567\\_9861202e3d375ffb07ed5f7d6877e9828335aa51.pdf](https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20091223_R40567_9861202e3d375ffb07ed5f7d6877e9828335aa51.pdf).

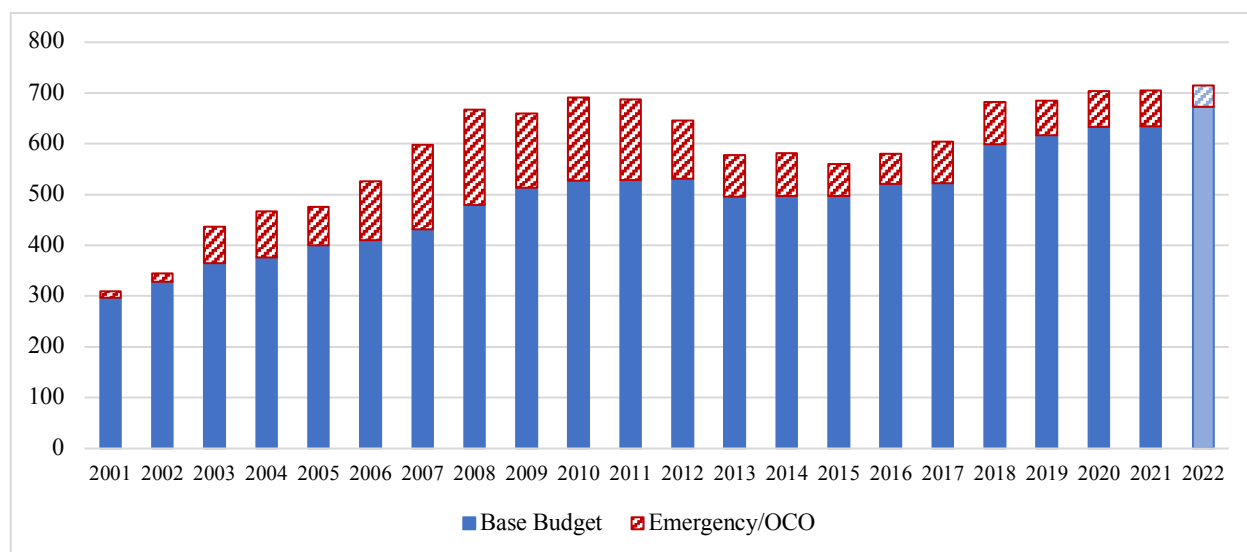
<sup>29</sup> Greg Myre. (March 26, 2018) "How the Pentagon Plans to Spend that Extra \$61billion." National Public Radio, <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/03/26/596129462/how-the-pentagon-plans-to-spend-that-extra-61-billion>.

<sup>30</sup> John M. Donnelly. (July 23, 2021). "Democratic Hawks Want to Go Bigger than Biden on Defense Spending," *Roll Call*, <https://www.rollcall.com/2021/07/23/democratic-hawks-want-to-go-bigger-than-biden-on-defense-spending/>. Leo Shane. (July 23, 2021). "Plan to Boost Biden's Defense Budget Could See Bipartisan Support," *Military Times*, <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/07/21/plan-to-boost-bidens-defense-budget-could-see-bipartisan-support/>.

But additions to the base military budget have occurred—even as war spending has decreased—for four other reasons that are indirectly and directly related to the post-9/11 wars.

First, the military has devoted an increasingly large share of military spending to contractors who provide goods and services such as equipment maintenance, transportation, security, and food services. As Heidi Peltier shows, the costs of using contractors have more than doubled during the post-9/11 wars.<sup>31</sup> While contractors make up an increasingly large part of the U.S. presence in the major war zones, they have also become a staple of operations within the continental United States and at other overseas bases. Indeed, spending on contracting has increased, even as direct war-related spending has declined.

**Figure 2. U.S. DOD Base and OCO Spending in Billions of Current Dollars, FY 2001-2022\*<sup>32</sup>**



*\*The Biden Administration identified \$42 Billion in OCO spending in the Base budget in its FY2022 request. It is unclear how the August 2021 events in Afghanistan will affect this request.*

Second, the U.S. has continued to “modernize” its military forces, procuring new technology, weapons, and weapons platforms to meet what it considers existing or potential threats. Further, some of the equipment that was destroyed, damaged, or used up during the wars has been repaired or replaced, sometimes with more expensive equipment in a process known as “reset.”

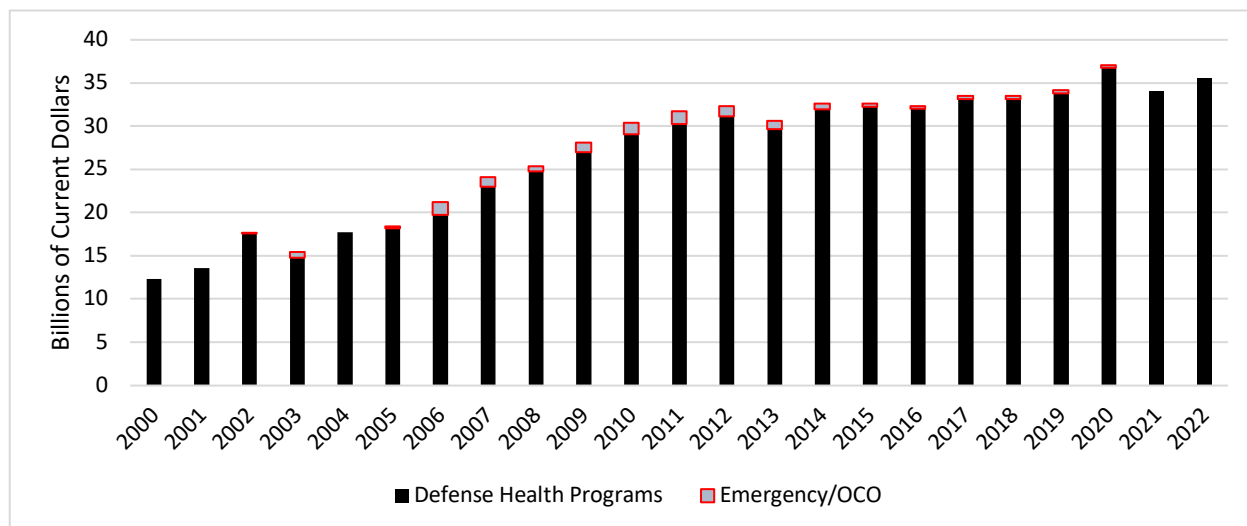
<sup>31</sup> Heidi Peltier. (2020). “The Growth of the ‘Camo Economy’ and the Commercialization of the Post-9/11 Wars,” Costs of War,

<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2020/Peltier%202020%20-%20Growth%20of%20Camo%20Economy%20-%20June%2030%202020%20-%20FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>32</sup> Source: Comptroller of the Department of Defense, various years. <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>.

Third, while the United States was at war so long, personnel costs in the base budget grew. For instance, military pay increased 6.9 % in 2002, the largest percentage increase since the early 1980s.<sup>33</sup> Overall, between 2002 and 2018, regular military compensation (cash, allowances for food and housing, and tax advantages) grew by 20 percent for the active duty force.<sup>34</sup> When casualties during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars were high, enlistment rates were affected, and the use of bonuses for enlistment and retention have substantially increased.<sup>35</sup> Further, the costs of healthcare for service members and retirees grew. In fact, the Defense Health Program (DHP) budget more than doubled during this period: in current dollars DHP in FY 2001 was \$13.5 billion; by FY2021, it was \$34.1 billion.<sup>36</sup> The OCO budget paid for some of the healthcare costs of active duty personnel wounded in the war zones.<sup>37</sup> But, as the following figure illustrates, while the Defense Health Program was supplemented by OCO money, most of the increase in DHP spending occurred in the DHP base budget. See Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Total DOD Defense Health Program Spending, Base and OCO, FY2000-FY2022<sup>38</sup>**



<sup>33</sup> See “United States Military Basic Pay History,” <https://www.navy.mil/navydata/charts/>. Also see Jim Absher, (January 28, 2021) “Historical Military Pay Tables,” *Military.Com*, <https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/charts/historical-military-pay-rates.html>.

<sup>34</sup> Congressional Budget Office, (January 2020) “Approaches to Changing Military Compensation,” <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2020-01/55648-CBO-military-compensation.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> See Beth Asch, et al, (2010) *Cash Incentives and Military Enlistment, Attrition, and Reenlistment*, (Santa Monica: RAND Corporation). <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/citations/ADA522744>.

<sup>36</sup> See Department of Defense, Defense Comptroller data, various years. <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>.

<sup>37</sup> Congressional Budget Office. (January 2014). “Approaches to Reducing Federal Spending on Military Health Care,” <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/113th-congress-2013-2014/reports/44993-militaryhealthcare.pdf>. Congressional Research Service. (June 15 2021). “FY2022 Budget Request for the Military Health System.” [https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/2021-06-15\\_IF11856\\_2ee5b10639ee71e551b4d72f00dedab932dd2397.pdf](https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/2021-06-15_IF11856_2ee5b10639ee71e551b4d72f00dedab932dd2397.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> Source: Department of Defense Comptroller, FY2000-FY2022.



Finally, the dividing line between DOD OCO direct war spending and the base budget became increasingly fuzzy in two respects. During sequestration, as I discuss in greater detail below, OCO money was used to supplement the base budget, inflating the OCO budget. On the other hand, over time, some activities in the major war zones and smaller war operations (such as Operation Noble Eagle) came to be understood as enduring requirements and were normalized and institutionalized in the base budget.

While the war zones and costs are sometimes named and included in accounts of spending, they are often not specified or enumerated in summary documents and some have been funded in both the base and the OCO budget. For example, the U.S. began a counterterrorism operation in the Philippines in October 2002 under the name Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines that concluded in 2015. In September 2017, the U.S. began Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines (OPE-P) as a named Overseas Contingency Operation. Since May 2019, OPE-P has been funded in part from the base budget and in part from the OCO budget. In FY2020, the DOD had committed \$85.6 million in spending from both the base and OCO accounts to the Philippines for OPE-P.<sup>39</sup>

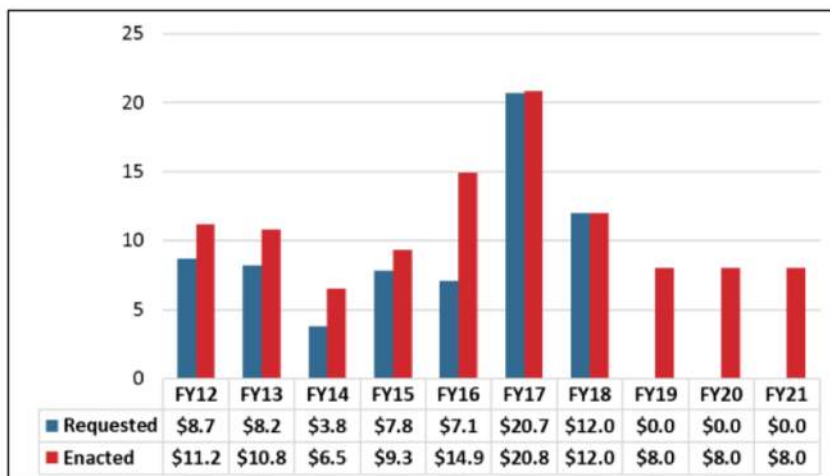
The Department of State's share of war-related spending is comparatively small. However, even as overall Department of State funding has declined compared to other budgets, Congress has been generous with OCO funding for the Department of State, frequently providing more money than the DOS requested. As the Congressional Research Service found, it is indeed rare in recent years for Congress to give the Department of State what it requests for war related Overseas Contingency Operations.<sup>40</sup> And as with the DOD, the State Department appears to have gotten around BCA restrictions between FY2012 and FY2021 by putting line items in the OCO account that should perhaps have been funded in the regular account. See Figure 4.

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<sup>39</sup> DOD, Inspector General, (2020). "Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines, Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress, July1, 2020-September 30,2 2020," p. 34.  
[https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/OPE-P\\_Philippines%20Lead%20Inspector%20General%20Report%20to%20the%20Congress%20of%20the%20United%20States%2C%20July%201%2C%202020%20-%20September%2030%2C%202020\\_Q4\\_Sep2020.pdf](https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/OPE-P_Philippines%20Lead%20Inspector%20General%20Report%20to%20the%20Congress%20of%20the%20United%20States%2C%20July%201%2C%202020%20-%20September%2030%2C%202020_Q4_Sep2020.pdf).

<sup>40</sup> Emily M. Morgenstern. (February 10, 2021.) "Foreign Affairs Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Funding: Background and Current Status," Congressional Research Service,  
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IF10143.pdf>.

**Figure 4. State Department Foreign Affairs OCO Funding FY2012-2021 Requested and Enacted, in Billions of U.S. Dollars<sup>41</sup>**



The spending on the counterterrorism mission for homeland security, while never entirely transparent, has become increasingly difficult to track. While terrorism is central to many Department of Homeland Security missions, the DHS is not the only department that performs the missions associated with homeland security, and further, DHS passes some of its appropriations to other departments. For some years, the Department of Homeland Security budget highlighted expenditures for all counterterror missions, concatenating all agency expenditures using three categories: “Prevent and Disrupt Terrorist Attacks;” “Protect Americans, Critical Infrastructure and Resources;” and “Respond and Recover from Incidents.” The White House and Department of Homeland Security have recently stopped providing the breakdown of DHS expenditures by missions devoted to post-9/11 counterterrorism; as of the FY2018 budget request, the Department Homeland Security budget was no longer explained by the White House Office of Management and Budget.<sup>42</sup> In more recent years, these accounting for these missions was essentially merged with other DHS missions and the DHS does not highlight its own or other agencies’ spending on these particular missions. William Painter of the Congressional Research Service noted in 2019:

Section 889 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 required the President's annual budget request to include an analysis of homeland security funding across the federal

<sup>41</sup> Source: From Emily M. Morgenstern. (February 10, 2021). “Foreign Affairs Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Funding: Background and Current Status,” Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IF10143.pdf>.

<sup>42</sup> In 2017, White House Office of Management and Budget stated in its *Analytical Perspectives* on the budget that, “Previous Analytical Perspectives volumes included a ‘Homeland Security Funding Analysis’ chapter, and provided additional detailed information on the Internet address cited above and on the Budget CD-ROM. P.L. 115-31 eliminated the statutory requirement for this information. Therefore, this information is not included in this years’ Budget and it will not be included in future Budgets.” Office of Management and Budget. (2017). *Analytical Perspectives: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2018*, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2018-PER/pdf/BUDGET-2018-PER.pdf>.



government—not just DHS. This requirement remained in effect through the FY2017 funding cycle. The resulting data series, which included agency-reported data on spending in three categories—preventing and disrupting terrorist attacks; protecting the American people, critical infrastructure, and key resources; and responding to and recovering from incidents—provides a limited snapshot of the scope of the federal government's investment in homeland security.

According to these data, from FY2003 through FY2017, the entire U.S. government directed roughly \$878 billion (in nominal dollars of budget authority) to those three mission sets. Annual budget authority rose from roughly \$41 billion in FY2003 to a peak in FY2009 of almost \$74 billion. After that peak, reported annual homeland security budget authority hovered between \$66 billion and \$73 billion. Thirty different agencies reported having some amount of homeland security budget authority.<sup>43</sup>

The FY2020 budget summary for DHS implies that nearly all of what it does is related to counterterrorism: “Nefarious actors want to disrupt our way of life. Many are inciting chaos, instability, and violence. At the same time, the pace of innovation, our hyperconnectivity, and our digital dependence have opened cracks in our defenses, creating new vectors through which our enemies and adversaries can strike us. This is a volatile combination. The result is a world where threats are more numerous, more widely distributed, highly networked, increasingly adaptive, and incredibly difficult to root out. The ‘home game’ has merged with the ‘away game’ and DHS actions abroad are just as important as our security operations here at home.”<sup>44</sup> Further, DHS says, “Border security is national security.”<sup>45</sup> But of course, DHS does other things—including responding to disasters. Yet, because the counterterrorism mission has been institutionalized and merged with its main missions, it is difficult to find a coherent analysis of the incremental addition of the cost of counterterrorism within the DHS budget. This estimate is based on the publicly available evidence from previous years, and assumes continuity in spending for years where there is no transparency.

Overall, care for veterans consumes the largest share of the total costs of the post-9/11 wars. The estimate for future costs of veterans’ care is much higher than previous estimates because, as Dr. Linda Bilmes of Harvard University notes, veterans of the post-9/11 wars are already claiming higher levels of benefits than previously anticipated and their needs will grow as they age. Due to advances in trauma care, the post-9/11 wars have seen a nearly 45 percent increase in the number of soldiers who are surviving wounds that, in the past would, have killed them.<sup>46</sup> Further, the types of injuries and co-morbidities of these soldiers will

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<sup>43</sup> William L. Painter. (February 28, 2019). “The Budget and Homeland Security: Homeland Security Issues in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress,” CRS Insight, <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/IN11047.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> Department of Homeland Security. (2019). *FY2020 Budget in Brief*, p. 1. [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0318\\_MGMT\\_FY-2020-Budget-In-Brief.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0318_MGMT_FY-2020-Budget-In-Brief.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> DHS, *FY2020 Budget in Brief*, p.2.

<sup>46</sup> See Tanisha M. Fazal. (2014). “Dead Wrong?: Battle Deaths, Military Medicine, and Exaggerated Reports of War’s Demise,” *International Security*, 39, 1: 95-125. Jeffrey T. Howard, Russ S. Kotwal, and Caryn A. Stern. (March 27 2019). “Use of Combat Casualty Care Data to Assess the U.S. Military Trauma System During the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts, 2001-2017,” *JAMA Surgery*, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/article-abstract/2729451>.

require increasingly complex and expensive care as they age. Thus, Bilmes notes, “as of 2021, some 40% of post-9/11 veterans had been granted a lifetime service-connected disability by the VA, based on the clinical severity of conditions they sustained or that worsened during their period of service.”<sup>47</sup>

### ***Spending in the Major Post-9/11 Wars: Afghanistan/Pakistan and Iraq and Syria***

The U.S. military designates main war zones in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Syria as named operations and these Overseas Contingency Operations have changed names when the mission has changed. The longest war so far, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, has had two names: “Operation Enduring Freedom” designated the first phase of war in Afghanistan from October 2001; it was designated “Operation Freedom’s Sentinel” on 1 January 2015. The war in Iraq was designated “Operation Iraqi Freedom” from March 2003 to 31 August 2010, when it became “Operation New Dawn.” When the U.S. began to fight ISIS in Syria and Iraq in August 2014, this war was designated “Operation Inherent Resolve.” For ease of understanding, the costs are not labeled here by their OCO designation, but by major war zone—namely Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Iraq and later Iraq and Syria. In both major war zones, the end of combat operations has been declared several times

While the Iraq war was the most intense through most of the last 20 years (with OCO spending peaking in 2008 with during the surge), the spending for Afghanistan, where spending peaked in 2011, has surpassed Iraq War spending. The DOD and State Department total appropriated for Afghanistan and Pakistan through FY2021 was about at \$1 trillion. In its May 2021 budget request, the Biden administration has requested \$8.9 billion for FY2022. The total spent for Iraq and Syria through FY2021 is \$886 billion with \$5.4 billion requested by the Biden administration for FY2022. However, the costs of being at war for nearly 20 years are not confined to the costs of DOD and State Department spending. Table 2 provides a rough approximation of the portion of total war costs that are potentially attributable to each of the two major war zones—Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Iraq and Syria.

**Table 2. Estimated Costs Attributed to the Major War Zones, FY2001-FY2022, in Billions of Current Dollars (Rounded to the Nearest Billion)<sup>48</sup>**

	Costs Attributed to Afghanistan/ Pakistan War Zone	Cost Attributed to Iraq/ Syria War Zone	Costs Attributed to Other OCO War Zones
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)			
DOD OCO	\$ 1,055	\$ 918	\$128
State Dept. OCO	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 69

<sup>47</sup> See Linda Bilmes. 2021. “The Long-Term Costs of Caring for Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars,” Costs of War Project.”

<sup>48</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

Portion of Interest on OCO Spending <sup>49</sup>	\$ 532	\$ 467	\$ 87
Portion of Estimated Increase in DOD Base Spending Due to War	\$ 433	\$ 380	\$ 71
Portion of Veterans' Care to Date	\$ 233	\$ 233	-
<b>Approximate Share of Costs of Post-9/11 Wars Attributed to Major War Zone, NOT Including Future Veterans' Care</b>	<b>\$ 2,313</b>	<b>\$ 2,058</b>	<b>\$ 355</b>
<i>Estimated Obligation for Future Veterans' Medical and Disability, FY2022-2050</i>	<i>\$1,100</i>	<i>\$1,100</i>	-
<b>TOTAL Including Future Obligations for Veterans' Care</b>	<b>\$3,413</b>	<b>\$3,158</b>	<b>\$355</b>

*\*Note: Table 2 does not include Homeland Security, which is included in the \$8 trillion total.*

For some categories—specifically, the share of Veterans and DHS spending due to each major war—the exact share for each warzone is impossible to calculate. For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that of the 4.59 million veterans of the post-9/11 era, 1.853 million veterans identified as having served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both. Of this total, 507,000 served in both war zones, 980,000 served in Afghanistan, and 1.38 million served in Iraq.<sup>50</sup> However without access to the service records of each veteran it is impossible to determine the spending for medical and disability that should be attributed to each war zone. The rule of thumb used here is thus to ascribe 50 percent of the share of veterans' costs to each war zone. Because spending for counterterrorism by the DHS and other agencies is no longer detailed, the total for homeland security was already a soft number. Thus, this estimate attributed shares of spending for homeland security that are in line with the share of DOD spending for the war zones: c. 49 percent for Afghanistan and 43 percent for Iraq. The other 8 percent of OCO spending is for other geographic areas or OCO missions. These include the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund, European Deterrence Initiative, training and assistance, and other operations in more than 85 countries in the world.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Calculated as a share of the total of interest on borrowing for DOD and State Department OCO. Total interest that may be attributed to the post-9/11 OCO spending may be as much as is \$1,117 billion. If so, Afghanistan's share of total OCO is 49%; Iraq's share of total OCO is 43 %. Of course, spending for Afghanistan is not only larger, but it is the longer of the two wars, its' share of the interest is slightly larger than noted here.

<sup>50</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Situation of Veterans, News Release" (March 18, 2021). [https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.htm#cps\\_veterans.f.1](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.htm#cps_veterans.f.1).

<sup>51</sup> For a map and a summary of some of these operations, see Stephanie Savell, (2020). "U.S. Counterterrorism Operations, 2018-2020" Costs of War Project, <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2021/US%20Counterterrorism%20Operations%202018-2020%20Costs%20of%20War.pdf>.

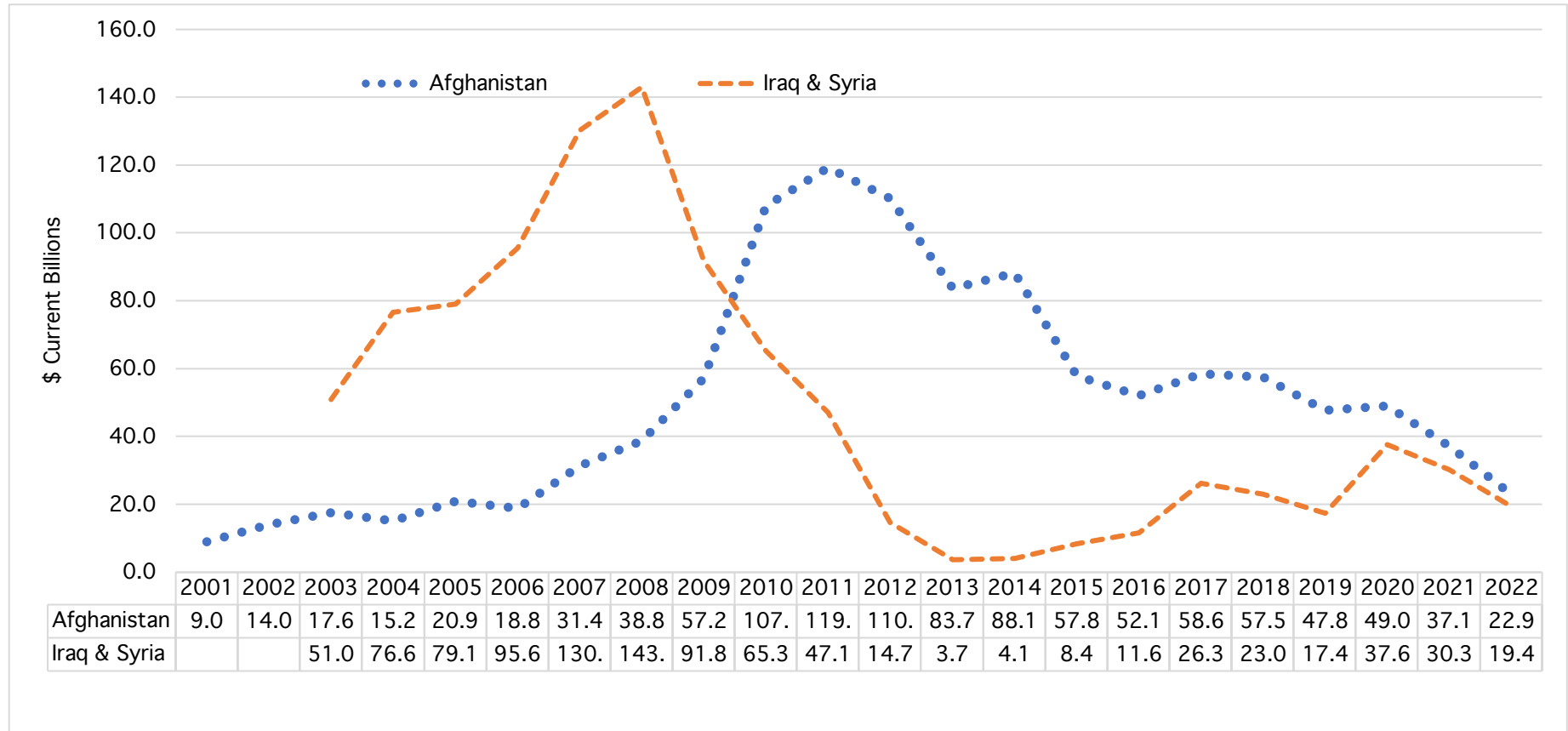
These enormous sums include significant programs. The DOD spent more than \$83 billion in OCO spending for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, and the Train and Equip Funds provided money to equip, train and pay for the Afghan National Defense and Security Force. In addition, the U.S. also spent near \$9 billion on counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan, as a way to reduce a source of income for the Taliban.

Figure 4 illustrates the trends in DOD and State Department OCO spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and Syria. The number for both FY2021 and FY2022 are likely to change given recent events in Afghanistan and the decision to fully withdraw from Iraq. Congress may appropriate more money to the DOD and State Department for evacuations in Afghanistan in FY2021, but may not appropriate as much money as requested for Afghanistan in FY2022. Within the larger named operations, there are activities in other geographic areas, in some cases far from the war zones, that directly support the named operations. For example, troops in the U.S. supported long sorties of B-52, B-1, and B-2 bombers to the war zones. Operation Enduring Freedom, focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan, included operations and troops stationed offshore and in Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen.<sup>52</sup> Similarly, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria has also included military troops stationed off shore and in Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

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<sup>52</sup> The casualties for each named operation include those other locations. See, Department of Defense Casualty Status, <https://www.defense.gov/casualty.pdf>.

**Figure 4. DOD and State Department OCO Appropriations by Major War Zone, FY2001-2021 and FY2022 Request in Billions of Current Dollars<sup>53</sup>**



<sup>53</sup> Appropriations for Major OCO in AfPak and Iraq/Syria. Including a 50 percent share of DOD OCO for Base and Enduring Requirements from FY2015-2022. Sources include: Department of Defense, Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller, various years. <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>. Amy Belasco. (December 2014). *The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11*. Congressional Research Service (CRS); Brendan W. McGarry and Emily Morgenstern. (Updated 6 September 2019) *Overseas Contingency Operations Funding: Background and Status*, CRS; Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, Quarterly Reports, <https://www.sigar.mil/quarterlyreports/index.aspx?SSR=6>.

## ***The Need for Transparency, Clarity and Comprehensive Accounting***

The U.S. government should ideally provide a comprehensive, detailed and clear accounting of the budgetary costs and implications of the post-9/11 wars. This lack of an official clear and comprehensive accounting is the result of two overlapping factors: first, the post-9/11 wars and the missions associated with them have been amorphous and shifting; and second, post-9/11 spending occurs in multiple departments, each of which may provide incomplete or obscure reporting of the costs. The U.S. government has also, at times, classified or removed information about operations and their associated budgets.

The Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Service and Members of Congress have long expressed concern that DOD accounting practices are opaque, and that the distinction between enduring and emergency funding has not been well observed. They have regularly pointed out the use of OCO money to fund the activities that should be funded in the DOD base budget. In 2014, for instance, CRS analyst Amy Belasco, in a Congressional Research Service report on the costs of the post-9/11 wars said: “Since the 9/11 attacks, some observers have criticized war funding as ‘off-budget’ or a ‘slush fund’ appropriated largely in emergency supplemental acts or for “Overseas Contingency Operations” (OCO) where normal budget limits in annual budget resolutions or the Budget Control Act (BCA) do not apply.” Belasco continued, “In recent testimony on September 18, 2014, for example, former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel acknowledged these ambiguities, saying “there are a lot of different opinions about whether there should be an overseas contingency account or not and whether it’s a slush fund or not.”<sup>54</sup> A CBO report in 2018 noted that “As contingency operations have become the norm and DoD has adjusted its allocation of resources to accommodate them, it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between the incremental costs of military conflicts and DoD’s regular, enduring costs.”<sup>55</sup> The CBO estimated that, from FY2006 to FY2018, \$53 billion in OCO funding was being used for activities that should have been funded in the base budget.<sup>56</sup>

In early 2019 Christopher Mann of the Congressional Research Service noted, “Estimates of the cumulative costs of war are complicated by the use of OCO-designated funds for base budget activities.”<sup>57</sup> Further, Mann says, “The use of the OCO designation for funding both war and non-war requirements has created ambiguity about enduring costs unrelated to ongoing conflicts.”<sup>58</sup> Mann noted that, “No government-wide reporting consistently accounts for both DOD and non-DOD war costs.” This leaves a hole in our understanding of the total costs of the post-9/11 wars that allows for confusion and the assertion of figures such as DOD spending that can be mistaken for an assessment of the entire budgetary costs and consequences of the post-9/11 wars. Mann also correctly notes that, “As a consequence, independent analysts have come to different conclusions about the total amount.” Because

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<sup>54</sup> Quoted in Belasco, Amy. (2014, December 8). The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11. *Congressional Research Service* (CRS) p. 20.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150501203337/http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33110.pdf>.

<sup>55</sup> CBO, Funding for Overseas Contingency Operations and its Impact on Defense Spending, p. 10.

<sup>56</sup> CBO, Funding for Overseas Contingency Operations and its Impact on Defense Spending, p. 2.

<sup>57</sup> Mann, *U.S. War Costs, Casualties, and Personnel Levels Since 9/11*.

<sup>58</sup> Mann, *U.S. War Costs, Casualties, and Personnel Levels Since 9/11*.

“widely varying estimates risk misleading the public and distracting from congressional priorities” Mann argues that a comprehensive accounting would be useful. “Congress may wish to require future reporting on war costs that consolidates interagency data (such as health care costs for combat veterans or international aid programs) in a standardized, authoritative collection.”<sup>59</sup> There is still, as of this writing, no such comprehensive accounting.<sup>60</sup>

The Department of Defense is not internally consistent or clear about its spending on the post-9/11 wars: spending may shift from one budget to another *inside* the department, categories may be overly broad, or detailed reporting of a function may entirely disappear. For instance, Operation Noble Eagle, which began in September 2001 as an operation to defend the U.S. air space and bases, was funded in the emergency war budget through FY2004 and switched to the base budget in FY 2005. More significantly, the DOD’s own reports of war spending are inconsistent and the basis for accounting is sometimes not fully explained. For example, in the DOD’s March 2021 “Estimated Cost to Each Taxpayer for the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq,” the DOD reports the annual cost for the war in Afghanistan as \$39.676 billion, and \$8.892 billion for Iraq and Syria for FY2020. It notes that “Estimated costs for Afghanistan include related regional costs that support combat operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.”<sup>61</sup> This does not match the total funding as appropriated by Congress for Afghanistan as stated by the DOD’s Comptroller which reports \$17 billion and \$7 billion respectively for the Afghanistan, and Iraq and Syria, war zones.<sup>62</sup> These two DOD reports differ from each other because they take different categories of functions and operations into account. Neither of these reports’ figures match the DOD’s Office of Lead Inspector General, “COP-OCO: FY 2021 Comprehensive Oversight Plan Overseas Contingency Operations.”<sup>63</sup> There was a more detailed breakdown of costs available from the DOD, but this has apparently not been produced since September 2019, and in any case, this breakdown also does not match other DOD reports.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Christopher T. Mann, (18 April 2019). *U.S. War Costs, Casualties, and Personnel Levels Since 9/11*, CRS.

<sup>60</sup> The Congressional Research Service reports by Amy Belasco through 2014 and later, by others in CRS, have aimed to provide the best and most transparent accounting of the costs of the post-9/11 wars. Amy Belasco. (December 2014). *The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11*. Congressional Research Service (CRS); Brendan W. McGarry and Emily Morgenstern. (Updated 6 September 2019) *Overseas Contingency Operations Funding: Background and Status*, CRS.

<sup>61</sup> Department of Defense, “Estimated Costs to Each U.S. Taxpayer of Each of the Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria,” March 2021.

[https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/Section1090Reports/Estimated Cost to Each U.S. Taxpayer of Each of the Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria dated March 2021.pdf](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/Section1090Reports/Estimated%20Cost%20to%20Each%20U.S.%20Taxpayer%20of%20Each%20of%20the%20Wars%20in%20Afghanistan,%20Iraq%20and%20Syria%20dated%20March%202021.pdf).

<sup>62</sup> DOD Office of the Undersecretary of Defense, (Comptroller). (2020) “Defense Budget Overview,” Revised May 13, 2020.

[https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/fy2021 Budget Request Overview Book.pdf](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/fy2021%20Budget%20Request%20Overview%20Book.pdf).

<sup>63</sup> DOD Office of Lead Inspector General, “COP-OCO: FY 2021 Comprehensive Oversight Plan Overseas Contingency Operations.” October 2020. [https://media.defense.gov/2021/Jan/22/2002569409/-1/-1/1/FY2021 LIG COP OCO REPORT .PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2021/Jan/22/2002569409/-1/-1/1/FY2021%20LIG%20COP%20OCO%20REPORT.PDF).

<sup>64</sup> See Department of Defense “FY2019 Quarter 4, Cost of War Update as of September 30, 2019,” <https://fas.org/man/eprint/cow/fy2019q4.pdf>. Also see the DOD’s Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction which produced reports through September 2013, and the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction have also produced reports which are detailed. See SIGIR reports archived in



While we should know whether spending should be classified for one war zone or another, support and combat operations in the U.S., Europe or Central Command may serve multiple war zones and operations. For example, the U.S. base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean has supported airstrikes in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Further, while the U.S. national security establishment certainly regards Pakistan as part of the area of operations for Afghanistan “Operation Enduring Freedom” and “Operation Freedom’s Sentinel,” DOD accounts enumerate the costs of operations in Pakistan and State Department spending related to Pakistan is not always included in accounts of direct war-related spending.

There has long been a certain fuzziness, mentioned above, about the use of OCO money, which was exacerbated after the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) set limits on defense and nondefense spending. While the Budget Control Act was in effect, OCO appropriated money was, for more than a decade, used to supplement the base DOD budget. This was not the intention of Congress.<sup>65</sup>

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<https://cybercemetery.unt.edu/archive/sigir/20131001084734/http://www.sigir.mil/directorates/audits/auditReports.html>. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction quarterly reports are found at, <https://www.sigar.mil/>.

<sup>65</sup> Specifically, these limits were enforced by “sequestration,” the automatic reduction of enacted appropriations in excess of the law’s prescribed levels. However, emergency appropriations for the DOD were not subject to the same detailed Congressional oversight and limits as appropriations for regular, or “base” budget non-emergency appropriations. In other words, spending designated as OCO was exempt from the base budget caps and sequestration. The limits imposed by the BCA expired in FY2022.

While the 2011 BCA was in effect, the DOD (and the State Department) appear to have charged additional expenses to the OCO budget that should have been funded through the base budget appropriation process. It appears that none of these transfers were explicitly requested by the DOD or authorized by Congress. In FY 2019, the Trump Administration made the practice of shifting emergency OCO appropriations into the base budget explicit when it introduced new ways of categorizing the Department of Defense spending related to the Overseas Contingency Operations. Some of the funding that was previously designated for specific military operations was moved during the Trump Administration into a category called “OCO for Enduring Theater Requirements and Related Missions” and another, “OCO for Base Requirements.” The DOD Comptroller explained:

“The FY 2020 OCO request is divided into three requirement categories – direct war, enduring, and OCO for base. Direct War Requirements (\$25.4 billion) – Reflects combat or combat support costs that are not expected to continue once combat operations end at major contingency locations. Includes in-country war support for Operation FREEDOM’S SENTINEL (OFS) in Afghanistan and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) in Iraq and Syria. Funds partnership programs such as the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF), the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund (CTEF), the Coalition Support Fund (CSF), and Middle East border security.

OCO for Enduring Requirements (\$41.3 billion) – Reflects enduring in-theater and CONUS costs that will remain after combat operations end. These costs, historically funded in OCO, include overseas basing, depot maintenance, ship operations, and weapons system sustainment. It also includes the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI), the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI), and Security Cooperation. Combined, enduring requirements and direct war requirements comprise “traditional” OCO.

OCO for Base Requirements (\$97.9 billion) – Reflects funding for base budget requirements, which support the National Defense Strategy, such as defense readiness, readiness enablers, and munitions, financed in the OCO budget to comply with the base budget defense caps included in current law.”



This practice of funding base requirements with the OCO budget was increasingly evident in the Trump Administration and has become explicit under the Biden administration. It has now led to normalization and institutionalization of spending in Pentagon’s “base” budget that was previously considered as part of the post-9/11 wars. Specifically, the DOD’s FY2019 request OCO for base was \$2.5 billion. The FY2020 budget request included \$97.5 billion in OCO funding for base budget requirements and \$35.3 billion for “Enduring Theater Requirements and Related Missions.” Another new DOD OCO category for FY2020 was “Emergency Requirements,” money intended for the Southern United States border wall and disaster relief for recent hurricanes. Thus, in FY 2020, only about \$25 billion of the \$173.8 billion OCO request were designated as for Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syrian and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan. In the FY2020 request, the DOD Comptroller also applied some of these new categories retroactively to previous OCO funding—respectively \$2, \$8, \$18, and \$17 billion for Fiscal Years 2015 to 2019.<sup>66</sup> Again, these changes were specifically and explicitly intended to get around congressionally imposed limits on the base defense budget. The Department of Defense FY2020 request explicitly stated as much: “These base budget requirements are funded in the OCO budget due to limits on budget defense caps enacted in the Budget Control Act of 2011. As base budget funding at the Budget Control Act level is insufficient to execute the National Defense Strategy, additional resources are being requested in the OCO budget.”<sup>67</sup> The FY2020 OCO for base requirements request also, according to the Comptroller’s report “include ground, air, and ship operations, base support, maintenance, weapons system sustainment, munitions, and other readiness activities, which are needed to prepare warfighters for their next deployment. This OCO request for base requirements includes additional resources for non-DoD activities, which are described in detail under separate (classified) cover.”<sup>68</sup> The FY2021 DOD budget enacted \$16.5 billion in “OCO for Base Requirements.” The FY2022 DOD budget request seeks money for what the DOD describes as “enduring theater requirements” that “reflects enduring in-theater and Continental United States (CONUS) costs that will remain after combat operations end.”<sup>69</sup> These have been equally divided between the major war zones in this report because the size of the troop presence in each war zone was approximately the same over the last 3 years. The distinction between OCO and the base budget were eliminated in the FY2022 DOD budget request by the Biden administration.<sup>70</sup>

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Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). (2019). *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*, p. 6-2.

<sup>66</sup> Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). (2019). *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*, p. 6-4.

<sup>67</sup> Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). (2019). *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*, p. 6-8.

<sup>68</sup> Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). (2019). *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*, p. 6-8.

<sup>69</sup> Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). (2021). *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*, p. 7-2.

<sup>70</sup> “To comply with the Office of Management and Budget direction in the Summary of the President’s Discretionary Funding Request, dated April 9, 2021, the Department of Defense (DoD) is shifting funds that had previously been designated as OCO to the base budget. The discretionary request also discontinues requests for OCO as a separate funding category, instead funding direct war costs and enduring operations in the DoD base budget, a significant budgetary reform.” Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). (2021). *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*, p. 7-2.

One of the most important duties of any great nation when it goes to war is to have a clear-eyed discussion of the costs, risks and benefits of war. As I showed above, transparency around costs has diminished over time, not increased. The lack of clarity includes but extends beyond the budget. Some numbers simply disappear. The DOD has sometimes not clearly reported the number of personnel deployed in the war zones and the larger theater of operations. In 2017, the DOD stopped reporting the number of troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq although they continue to report the number of troops that were involved in the named operations and those supporting them in the U.S.<sup>71</sup> Another loss of transparency occurred when the Department of Defense stopped reporting its air strikes and weapons releases in Afghanistan after February 2020.<sup>72</sup>

In 2017, the DOD classified previously unclassified information about the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. The DOD also classified some previously public data in 2015.<sup>73</sup> The classifications and restrictions make it difficult for Congress to evaluate policies and Special Inspector Generals to conduct oversight. As SIGAR noted in 2017, “None of the material now classified or otherwise restricted discloses information that could threaten the U.S. or Afghan missions (such as detailed strategy, plans, timelines, or tactics).” Further, “All of the data include key metrics and assessments that are essential to understanding mission success for the reconstruction of Afghanistan's security institutions and armed forces.” Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, John Sopko told Congress in 2020, “Every time we find something that looks like it’s going negative, it gets classified... Most of the [methods] of measuring success are now classified.”<sup>74</sup>

But information does not have to disappear to be unavailable. It has sometimes been merged into larger categories that blurs distinct classifications. Determining the costs of medical care and disability compensation for Post-9/11 veterans has at times been complicated by the categories the Department of Veterans Affairs has used to denote post-9/11 veterans. For example, the VA categorizes the veterans of the post-9/11 wars in the same category as 1990 Gulf War veterans, with veterans from the entire period from 1990 to the present categorized as “Gulf War Era Veterans” in VA disability compensation records. In their FY2022 budget the VA estimated that Gulf War era veterans, who served from 2 August 1990 to the present would account for 51.9 percent of the veterans receiving compensation in 2022, an increase from 50.7 percent of all veterans receiving compensation

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[https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/FY2022/FY2022\\_Budget\\_Request\\_Overview\\_Book.pdf](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/FY2022/FY2022_Budget_Request_Overview_Book.pdf).

<sup>71</sup> Heidi M. Peters, “Department of Defense Contractor and Troop Levels in Afghanistan and Iraq: 2007-2020,” Congressional Research Service, CRS Reports, R44116. February 22, 2021.

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R44116.pdf>.

<sup>72</sup> U.S. Airpower Summary, Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2013-2019 Airpower Statistics, <https://www.afcent.af.mil/Portals/82/Documents/Airpower%20summary/Jan%202020%20Airpower%20Summary.pdf?ver=2020-02-13-032911-670>.

<sup>73</sup> See the Memo October 31, 2017, from the Research and Analysis Directorate, Office of Afghanistan Reconstruction to John Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

<sup>74</sup> Sopko quoted in Steve Beynon, “Are We Winning the Afghanistan War? That’s Classified Sopko Says,” *Stars and Stripes*, 11 February 2020. <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle-east/are-we-winning-the-afghan-war-that-s-classified-sopko-says-1.618399>.

in FY2020.<sup>75</sup> However, in 2021 the Bureau of Labor Statistics is clear about the that there are 4.5 million veterans who served in the U.S. military from September 2001 through August, 2020, and they classify these as “Gulf War Era II” veterans.<sup>76</sup>

The Costs of War Project would welcome a full accounting and analysis from the Office of Management and Budget of the total costs of the post-9/11 wars, including the costs of veteran’s medical and disability care, the use of the war budgets, the effect of the overseas contingency operations spending on the DOD and State Department’s base budgets, the federal costs of counterterrorism efforts at home, a clear account of the cost-effectiveness of homeland security, and an estimate of the state and local costs of the post-9/11 wars and counterterror mobilization.

## ***Conclusion***

The U.S. responded to the 9/11 attacks through a military mobilization of unprecedented scope, scale, and duration. The costs of such a response will not end after U.S. troops withdraw from Afghanistan and Iraq. The U.S. continues to invest in war in other areas around the globe, devote a great deal of resources to counterterrorism at home, and must pay future costs—including for veterans’ disability and medical care and interest on borrowing to pay for the post-9/11 wars.

Every country goes to war believing that they can win, that the fighting and its consequences will be controllable, that the costs of war will be less expensive than diplomatic efforts or sanctions, and that there will be few casualties because they will take

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<sup>75</sup> “Benefits in the compensation program are estimated to be dispersed to 5,033,113 Veterans and 443,407 Survivors in 2020 and 5,192,776 Veterans and 456,294 Survivors in 2021. The 2020 Veteran and Survivor caseload estimate is distributed among World War II and Prior (76,823), Korean Conflict (126,947), Vietnam Era (1,717,752), Gulf War (2,702,897), and Peacetime (852,101) periods of service.” Department of Veterans Affairs. (2019). *Volume III, Benefits and Burial Programs and Department Administration, 2020 Congressional Submission*, p. VBA-56.

<https://www.va.gov/budget/docs/summary/fy2020VAbudgetvolumeIIIbenefitsBurialProgramsAndDeptmentalAdministration.pdf>. “Benefits in the compensation program are estimated to be dispersed to 5,503,550 Veterans and 475,146 Survivors in 2022, and 5,724,030 Veterans and 492,868 Survivors in 2023. The 2022 Veteran and Survivor caseload estimate is distributed among World War II and Prior (49,527), Korean Conflict (107,584), Vietnam Era (1,835,934) Gulf War (3,087,762), and Peacetime (897,888) periods of service. Caseload for the older periods of service is steadily declining. The number of Veterans and Survivors of Veterans from the Gulf War Era who are receiving compensation benefits will continue to increase rapidly through the budget year.”

Department of Veterans Affairs. (2021). *Volume III, Benefits and Burial Programs and Department Administration, 2020 Congressional Submission*, p. VBA-59.

<https://www.va.gov/budget/docs/summary/fy2022VAbudgetvolumeIIIbenefitsBurialProgramsAndDeptmentalAdministration.pdf>.

<sup>76</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment Situation of Veterans, News Release” (March 18, 2021).

[https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.htm#cps\\_veterans.f.1](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.htm#cps_veterans.f.1). “Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both are individuals who served in Iraq at any time since March 2003, in Afghanistan at any time since October 2001, or in both locations. Service in Iraq or Afghanistan is determined by answers to two questions: ‘Did you serve in Iraq, off the coast of Iraq, or did you fly missions over Iraq at any time since March 2003?’ and ‘Did you serve in Afghanistan, or did you fly missions over Afghanistan, at any time since October 2001?’”

great care to protect their own soldiers and the lives of innocent civilians. But war rarely goes as planned. When things don't go as planned, new increments of force are added—or surged—to the war zone on the theory that just a bit more force will make the difference. The costs in lives and treasure goes up as the level of force is ratcheted up. And war continues.

Democracy can sometimes take a beating during war. Operations may be shrouded in well-intentioned but perhaps unnecessary secrecy, and mistakes are generally swept under the rug or downplayed. Voices of caution or those who ask for more details about plans and alternatives are often ignored, derided, or silenced as citizens and decisionmakers rally around the flag and defer to generals in an atmosphere of fear and urgency. The Costs of War Project hopes that this accounting, and our other work, promotes transparency and facilitates informed conversations about current and future wars.

## **NOW IS THE TIME FOR A COLLECTIVE NEW PUSH FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION**

On March 23rd 2020, Secretary-General António Guterres issued an urgent appeal for a global ceasefire in all corners of the world to focus together on the true fight – defeating COVID-19. He repeated the call at the start of the 75th UN General Assembly session in September.

Silencing the guns can not only support the fight against COVID-19, but also create opportunities for life-saving aid, open windows for diplomacy and bring hope to people suffering in conflict zones who are particularly vulnerable to the pandemic. Since March, 180 countries, the Security Council, regional organizations, civil society groups, peace advocates and millions of global citizens have endorsed the Secretary-General's ceasefire call.

The clock is ticking and there is no time to waste.



- > **"To silence the guns, we must raise the voices for peace" (<https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/update-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-appeal-global-ceasefire>)**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

- > **"The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war" (<https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/fury-virus-illustrates-folly-war>)**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

- > **"Make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of national response plans for COVID-19" (<https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/make-prevention-and-redress-violence-against-women-key-part>)**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

- > **"This war needs a war-time plan to fight it" (<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/war-needs-war-time-plan-fight-it>)**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

- > **"Global solidarity with Africa is an imperative" (<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/global-solidarity-africa-imperative>)**

## News and Features

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(/en/globalceasefire/un-security-council-demands-covid-19-vaccine-ceasefires)

## **UN Security Council demands COVID-19 vaccine ceasefires** **(<https://www.un.org/en/globalceasefire/un-security-council-demands-covid-19-vaccine-ceasefires>)**

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26 February 2021 - The UN Security Council on Friday unanimously passed a resolution calling on all Member States to support a “sustained humanitarian pause” to local conflicts, in order to allow for COVID-19 vaccinations.





(/en/globalceasefire/step-action-achieve-covid-19-ceasefire-guterres-says-un-day-message)

**Step up action to achieve COVID-19 ceasefire, Guterres says in UN Day message (<https://www.un.org/en/globalceasefire/step-action-achieve-covid-19-ceasefire-guterres-says-un-day-message>)**

23 October 2020 - The UN's 75th anniversary this Saturday, which falls as countries continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, is an opportunity to accelerate action to achieve a global ceasefire during the crisis, Secretary-General António Guterres has said.

[MORE NEWS AND FEATURES \(HTTPS://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/GLOBALCEASEFIRE/STORIES\)](https://www.un.org/en/globalceasefire/stories)

## Related Observances



(<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>)

## Human Rights Day

(<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>)

Human Rights Day commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



10 Dec 2020





(<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-solidarity-day>)

## International Human Solidarity Day

(<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-solidarity-day>)

The United Nations was founded on a basic premise of unity and harmony among its members expressed in the concept of collective security that relies on the solidarity of its members to unite “to maintain international peace and security.



20 Dec 2020

[MORE RELATED OBSERVANCES \(/EVENTS/104231\)](#)

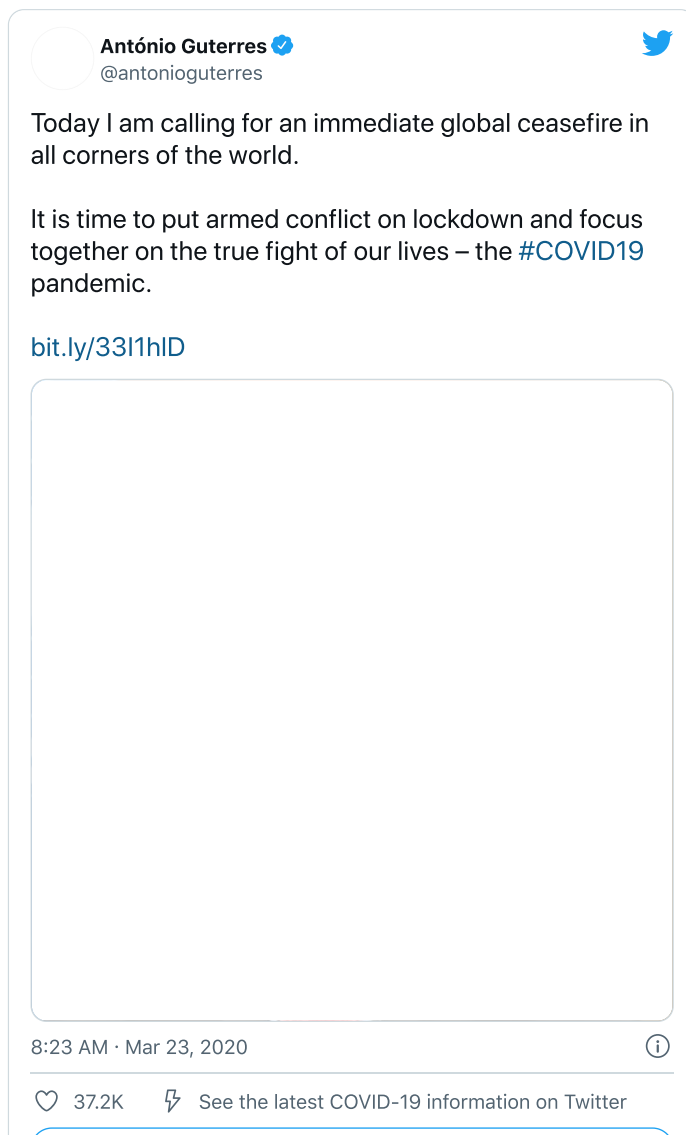


**António Guterres** ✓  
@antonioguterres



I call on all parties to conflict to observe the Olympic Truce during the [#Tokyo2020](#) Olympic and Paralympic Games.

People and nations can build on this temporary respite to establish lasting ceasefires and find paths towards sustainable peace.



Tweet your reply



**António Guterres** ✓  
@antonioguterres



I have appealed for an immediate global ceasefire to focus on the one true fight: the battle against [#COVID19](#).

The Security Council has joined this call.

We need to step up our efforts. The clock is ticking — and people are dying.

[bit.ly/2HfXpS8](https://bit.ly/2HfXpS8)

3:51 PM · Oct 20, 2020



920



See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Tweet your reply



**Rosemary A. DiCarlo** ✓  
@DicarloRosemary



I welcome the Security Council resolution on [#COVID19](#) demanding a cessation of hostilities in situations on its agenda & recognizing the Secretary-General's global ceasefire appeal. Let's now truly press conflict parties to silence the guns and focus on fighting the common enemy. [pic.twitter.com/r31YUGh2mi](https://pic.twitter.com/r31YUGh2mi)

6:24 AM · Jul 1, 2020



240



See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Tweet your reply

**Join the call by Secretary-General António Guterres  
for a ceasefire in all corners of the world.**

([https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global\\_ceasefire\\_loc/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global_ceasefire_loc/))

**Sign the petition and make your voice heard!**

([https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global\\_ceasefire\\_loc/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global_ceasefire_loc/))

SIGN THE PETITION ([HTTPS://SECURE.AVAAZ.ORG/CAMPAIGN/EN/GLOBAL\\_CEASEFIRE\\_LOC/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global_ceasefire_loc/))

(<https://www.addtoany.com/share#url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fglobalceasefire&title=GI>  
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(/#email)

(/#whatsapp)

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(<https://www.un.org/en/>)

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(<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov>)

State of Hawaii

Department of Human Services (<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov>)

[Home \(http://humanservices.hawaii.gov\)](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov) » [Main \(http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/blog/category/main/\)](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/blog/category/main/) » Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women launches anti-trafficking campaign

## HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN LAUNCHES ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN

Posted on Jul 10, 2018 in [Main \(http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/blog/category/main/\)](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/blog/category/main/).



(<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bus-ad-1/>)

HONOLULU, HI– On Monday, July 2, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women at the Department of Human Services launched its first anti-trafficking campaign to coincide with RIMPAC. The “She is All Women” campaign aims to bring attention to the outsized demand for prostitution in Hawai'i — a demand met in part by sex trafficking, and that surges during RIMPAC.

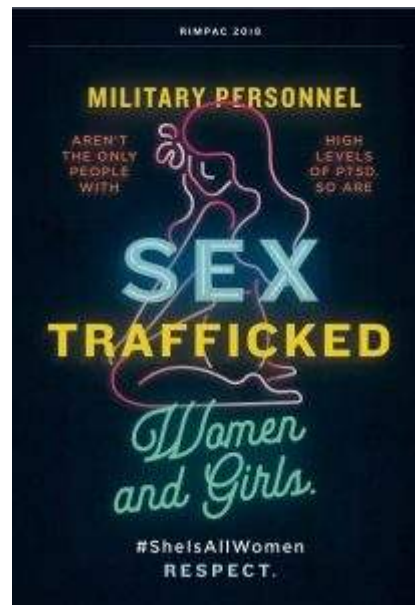
Major events such as RIMPAC create a significant risk of commercial sexual exploitation to women and girls in Hawaii. The Commission is especially concerned for runaway youth, Native Hawaiian, immigrant, and LGBTQ persons, who are at an elevated risk of the predictive factors for prostitution and sex trafficking.

([http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/36429499\\_622192564793\\_95403362939725414](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/36429499_622192564793_95403362939725414))

According to Khara Jabola-Carolus, the Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, “National data shows that demand for commercial sex during large gatherings such as the Super Bowl increases by 30-39%, and criminal networks including traffickers follow demand. Researchers specifically trained in the recognition of sex trafficking victimization have also found that 65% of online sex ads during recent Super Bowls were possible sex trafficking victims. RIMPAC is the military's Super Bowl.”

Much attention has been given to the military's environmental and cultural impacts. Little to no focus has been given to women's safety living around the bases. Places with a large military presence often see higher rates of violence against women as a result of a larger process of normalized violence. According to the Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research at Arizona State University, Hawai'i has one of the worst demand problems in the America and a large number of buyers are on its military bases.

Jabola-Carolus also stated, "RIMPAC is a symptom, not the disease. From western intervention to present, a system of prostitution has sexualized and exploited poor, Native, and vulnerable women's lower social power in Hawai'i. Military, tourist and local men need to adjust their perception of women. No one in should have to sell their consent to sex in order to live. No one should get to use their economic power to force consent. The dignity of Hawai'i's men is dependent on the dignity of Hawai'i's women." The Commission is urging the public to intervene if they suspect sex trafficking activity by calling 1-888-373-7888. Victims are also encouraged to seek help through the hotline. The public can expect to see "She is All Women" announcements throughout Oahu on bus ads and posters, radio ads, and videos on its social media accounts.





Hawaii

# Supreme Court: State Failed Trust Duties In Pohakuloa

The Hawaii Supreme Court ordered the state to come up with a plan to better manage the land.



5

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By Blaze Lovell   / August 23, 2019

 Reading time: 2 minutes.



---

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled Friday that the state has not properly managed lands leased to the military on the Big Island.

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources leases more than 20,000 acres of land in Pohakuloa to the military for training for just \$1 a year. Part of the military's lease states that DLNR must monitor activities and ensure that trash and unexploded ordnance is removed.

Cultural practitioners who use the land found spent shell casings and other ordnance, the opinion says.



"As trustee, the State must take an active role in preserving trust property and may not passively allow it to fall into ruin," the high court wrote in its 101-page opinion.

The large parcel of land was once part of more than 2 million acres owned by the Kingdom of Hawaii. Those lands were transferred to the state, and most are managed by DLNR.

The opinion Friday affirms a lower court ruling, which stated that the state must make reasonable efforts to preserve and protect the land.

The Supreme Court ruling also affirmed a Circuit Court order that the state must develop a plan for on-site inspections.

*Read the full opinion below.*



\*\*\*FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST'S HAWAII REPORTS AND PACIFIC REPORTER\*\*\*

Electronically Filed  
Supreme Court  
SCAP-18-0000432  
23-AUG-2019  
09:05 AM

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

---o0o---

CLARENCE CHING and MARY MAXINE KAHAULELIO,  
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

vs.


SUZANNE CASE, in her official capacity as Chairperson  
of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer, BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES, and DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Defendants-Appellants.

SCAP-18-0000432

APPEAL FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT  
(CAAP-18-0000432; CIV. NO. 14-1-1085-04)



AUGUST 23, 2019


Document



1

of 101

68%



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## About the Author



**Blaze Lovell** ✉ 📡

Blaze Lovell is a reporter for Civil Beat and a graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He was born and raised on Oahu. You can reach him at [blovell@civilbeat.org](mailto:blovell@civilbeat.org) or follow him on Twitter at [@blaze\\_lovell](https://twitter.com/blaze_lovell)

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## Ho'iho'i 'Āina: [#MilitaryLANDBACK](#)

99 views • Jul 30, 2021



6



0



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**Ka La Hoihoi Ea**

122 subscribers

SUBSCRIBED



The US military currently leases lands in Wahiawā, Kahuku, Mākua and Pōhakuloa from the state for just \$1 for 65 years. The leases expire in 2029 but the Army has already initiated its EIS process to retain these lands. Learn more about how we can effectively engage the current EIS process and get [#LandBack](#).

Our panelists of long-time aloha 'āina and activists include:

- Aunty Maxine Kahaulelio and Kū Ching (Pōhakuloa)
- Sparky Rodriguez (Mākua)
- Tom Lenchanko (Poamoho)
- Lynell DaMate (Kahuku)

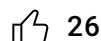
Hosted by KOA Futures and Lā Ho'iho'i Ea - Honolulu, with support from the Hawai'i Peoples' Fund.

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[#CancelRIMPAC](#)

## Cancel RIMPAC - A Collective Poem

538 views • Jul 8, 2020



26



2



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**Cancel RIMPAC Coalition**

12 subscribers

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Thirteen indigenous poets from Oceania - from Hawai'i, Aotearoa, and Guahan - came together to write and record a poem calling for the Cancellation of RIMPAC and for the restoration of ea: life, breath, and sovereignty. Their words envision a world without RIMPAC, without war or war games, without militarization and nuclear warfare, without deception and appropriation, without naval sonar and naval frigates, without bombs, and without militancy. Listen to their words, breathe with them, be moved by the futures they imagine, and act. [#CancelRIMPAC](#).

Directed and Edited by: Mikey Inouye

Poem Contributors in Order of Appearance: Emalani Case, Brandy Nālani, Grace Iwashita-Taylor, D. Keali'i MacKenzie, Emelihter Kihleng, Bobbie Millar, Billy Kinney, A.A. Hedge Coke, Nadine Anne Hura, Tāwhana Chadwick, Kisha Borja-Quichocho-Calvo, Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, Loke Aloua

Produced by: Emalani Case, Joy Enomoto, & Mikey Inouye

Additional Footage Provided by: Nate Yuen



of imperialist abuse worldwide as countries from across the globe take part in environmental destruction, cultural desecration, and training for future acts of oppression. These militaries represent some of the greatest contributors to climate change, and through the deployment of their polluting weapons during RIMPAC continue the war against the Hawaiian ecosystem and environment as a whole. RIMPAC participants also perpetuate the long history of human exploitation via their contributions to sex trafficking as well as their continued focused training on excelling in their oppression of people around the world and in their “home” countries.

This year, RIMPAC participants plan to come in the midst of a global pandemic, disregarding public safety in the interest of military might. In the middle of the latest COVID-19 spike, nations with varying levels of success in combatting the virus (including the United States which has had the worst response to the crisis), plan to come to Hawai'i and put everyone here at risk. The US military's blatant disregard for our lives and wellbeing is not unique to this year; conducting war games during a pandemic is only the most recent in a long line of abuses the United States commits against Hawai'i and her people by taking part in these war exercises. RIMPAC must be cancelled this year and every year after, in the interest of protecting our lives, our environment, and ending the US military occupation of our islands. Stand with us to cancel RIMPAC – now and forever.

SHOW LESS

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### HMAS Farncomb successful sinking at RIMPAC

Royal Australian Navy  
51K views • 9 years ago



### FKJ & Masego - Tadow

Fkj 🎵  
335M views • 4 years ago



### Jo Koy's Mom Makes Him Cry | Netflix Is A Joke

Netflix Is A Joke ✓  
6.8M views • 2 years ago

### lofi hip hop radio - beats to sleep/chill to

Lofi Girl ✓  
9.9K watching

LIVE NOW



### Aha Mele Ea 2021, pt. 1 of 4

## TOP NEWS

# Oahu median home price inches even closer to \$1M

By [Andrew Gomes](#) • June 7, 2021

A continued surge in home buying on Oahu last month helped drive the median sale price in the market closer to \$1 million.

Previously owned single-family houses on the island sold for \$978,000 in May, according to a report released today by the Honolulu Board of Realtors.

The figure represented a 23% rise over a \$797,000 median sale price in the same month last year, and was the fourth high in five months this year.

“The market’s rapid pace is showing no signs of slowing, and buyers entering the market continue to face stiff competition, especially for homes under \$800,000,” Shannon Heaven, president of the trade association, said in a statement.

There were 405 single-family home sales last month, a 63% surge from 248 sales a year earlier.

Much of the gain reflected abnormally low sale volume last year because of impacts during an early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet last month’s sale volume far exceeded the 320 sales in May 2019 and included much pent-up demand from buyers.

Heaven, an agent with Property Profiles, noted that one Oahu home put on the market last month received 60 offers within a week of being listed.

In Oahu’s condominium market, the number of sales spiked even more — by 135% to 598 in May from 254 in the same month last year.

The condo median sale price rose 15% to \$457,750 from \$399,000 in the year-over-year period.

The record median sale price for condos in a single month was set in July 2019 at \$461,500.



## Defund War, Invest in our Communities



### We need to defund war and invest in our communities.

Since 2001 we have spent \$6.4 trillion on total military spending, meaning that in the past 19 years Americans have spent [\\$23,386 each](#) on war and underinvested in the needs of our communities. We need to defund the Pentagon, end the militarization of our police, and end military aid to human rights abusers around the world NOW.

In 2020, the Pentagon budget was \$740 billion-- about half of which went directly into the hands of private contractors, not our troops. Since 1990, the Pentagon has sent over \$7.4 billion worth of "surplus" military equipment to local police departments, bringing the full force of the U.S. military home to terrorize people of color and the working class. On top of our bloated Pentagon and municipal police budgets, we also send billions of our tax dollars in military aid to human rights abusers around the world.



Historic protests in cities across the US have created a growing awareness that in order to address systemic racism, an ongoing climate crisis, and the needs of working people we must defund the police and defund war. Now is the time to follow their leadership and work towards creating a society which addresses security by investing in human needs, not endless war and militarization.

# Did your Congressional Representative vote to cut the Pentagon Budget by 10%?

Earlier this year, our representatives had an opportunity to **vote for historic legislation which would have cut the Pentagon budget by 10%**. If your representative failed to vote to cut the Pentagon Budget by 10%, it's time to hold them accountable. A report out from Sludge showed that members of Congress who voted against the 10% cut to the Pentagon budget [received 3.4X more](#) campaign contributions from weapons manufacturers. We need to demand that they stop taking campaign contributions from weapons manufacturers.

**How did your representative vote? Find the final list of YES and NO votes below, then take action!**

Did your Congressional Representative vote to cut the Pentagon Budget by 10%?

✅ If yes, thank them for their support and ask that they join the newly formed Defense Spending Reduction Caucus [here](#).

❌ If not, they have blood on their hands! Take action to demand that they stop taking campaign contributions from weapons manufacturers and hold them accountable [here](#).

These Representatives **voted to** cut the Pentagon Budget by 10%. [Contact them here](#) to thank them and ask that they join the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus to continue to build power in Congress!



## CODEPINK

These Representatives voted yes to cut the Pentagon Budget by 10%.  
to thank them and ask that they join the Defense  
Spending Reduction Caucus to continue to build power in Congress!

AZ-3 Grijalva	CA-37 Bass	CA-29 Cárdenas
CA-27 Chu	CA-11 DeSaulnier	CA-44 Barragán
CA-18 Eshoo	CA-34 Gomez	CA-2 Huffman
CA-17 Khanna	CA-13 Lee	CA-33 Lieu
CA-19 Lofgren	CA-47 Lowenthal	CA-6 Matsui
CA-9 McNerney	CA-32 Napolitano	CA-45 Porter
CA-38 Sánchez	CA-28 Schiff	CA-30 Sherman
CA-14 Speier	CA-41 Takano	CA-51 Vargas
CA-43 Waters	CO-2 Neguse	CT-5 Hayes
DC-1 Norton	FL-14 Castor	FL-21 Frankel
FL-20 Hastings	FL-24 Wilson	GA-4 Johnson
HI-2 Gabbard	IL-7 Davis	IL-4 Garcia
IL-2 Kelly	IL-1 Rush	IL-9 Schakowsky
KY-3 Yarmuth	MA-5 Clark	MA-9 Keating
MA-4 Kennedy	MA-8 Lynch	MA-2 McGovern

These Representatives **voted against** a 10% cut to the Pentagon Budget. This is unacceptable and they have blood on their hands! We need to hold them accountable. [Click here to demand that they stop taking campaign contributions from weapons manufacturers.](#)



## CODEPINK

These Representatives either voted *against* or *abstained from voting* on a 10% cut to the Pentagon Budget. This is unacceptable and they have blood on their hands! We need to hold them accountable.

NC-12 Adams	AL-4 Aderholt	CA-31 Aguilar
GA-12 Allen	TX-32 Allred	NV-2 Amodei
ND Armstrong	TX-19 Arrington	IA-3 Axne
TX-36 Babin	NE-2 Bacon	IN-4 Baird
OH-12 Balderson	IN-3 Banks	KY-6 Barr
CA-7 Bera	MI-1 Bergman	VA-8 Beyer
AZ-5 Biggs	FL-12 Billirakis	GA-2 Bishop
NC-9 Bishop	UT-1 Bishop	DE Blunt Rochester
IL-12 Bost	PA-2 Boyle	TX-8 Brady
NY-22 Brindisi	AL-5 Brooks	IN-5 Brooks
MD-4 Brown	CA-26 Brownley	FL-16 Buchanan
CO-4 Buck	IN-8 Bucshon	NC-13 Budd
TN-2 Burchett	TX-26 Burgess	IL-17 Bustos
NC-1 Butterfield	CA-42 Calvert	CA-24 Carbajal
IN-7 Carson	GA-1 Carter	PA-8 Cartwright
HI-1 Case	IL-6 Casten	OH-1 Chabot
WY Cheney	RI-1 Cicilline	CA-39 Cisneros
VA-6 Cline	TX-27 Cloud	SC-6 Clyburn

## Here are educational resources about defunding war:

To watch:

Disarm & Divest During COVID-19, Webinar w/Cornel West, Jeremy Scahill...



Disarm and Divest during COVID-19

Rising Up for True Liberation with Kymone Freeman

O-270





## Rising up for True Liberation with Kymone Freeman

WTF Is Going on in Latin America: Militarization in the U.S. and Abroad



## Latin America: Militarization of the U.S. and Abroad

Disarm & Divest During COVID-19, Webinar w/Cornel West, Jeremy Scahill...



## Divestment from Weapons 101

### To read:

- [Congressional Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- [Defund the Police, Defund the Military](#)
- [Black Women's Lives Matter](#)
- [To Address the War Economy, We have to Start in our Local Communities](#)



- [Top Ten Reasons to Protest BlackRock](#)
- [Why is there Always Money for War and Wall Street?](#)
- [Brown University's Cost of War Project estimates that from 2001-2020, the U.S. spent \\$6.4 trillion on its "War on Terror"](#)
- [We Can't Confront Climate Change While Lavishly Funding the Pentagon](#)

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ACTION ALERTS  
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RECOMMENDED MOVIES  
RECOMMENDED BOOKS

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PALESTINE  
ACCOUNTABILITY: EXPOSING  
WAR CRIMES  
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SAUDI ARABIA  
LATIN AMERICA  
THE PEACE COLLECTIVE  
HAITI PROJECT  
THE FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

#### PINK UPDATES

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LOCAL PEACE ECONOMY DAILY

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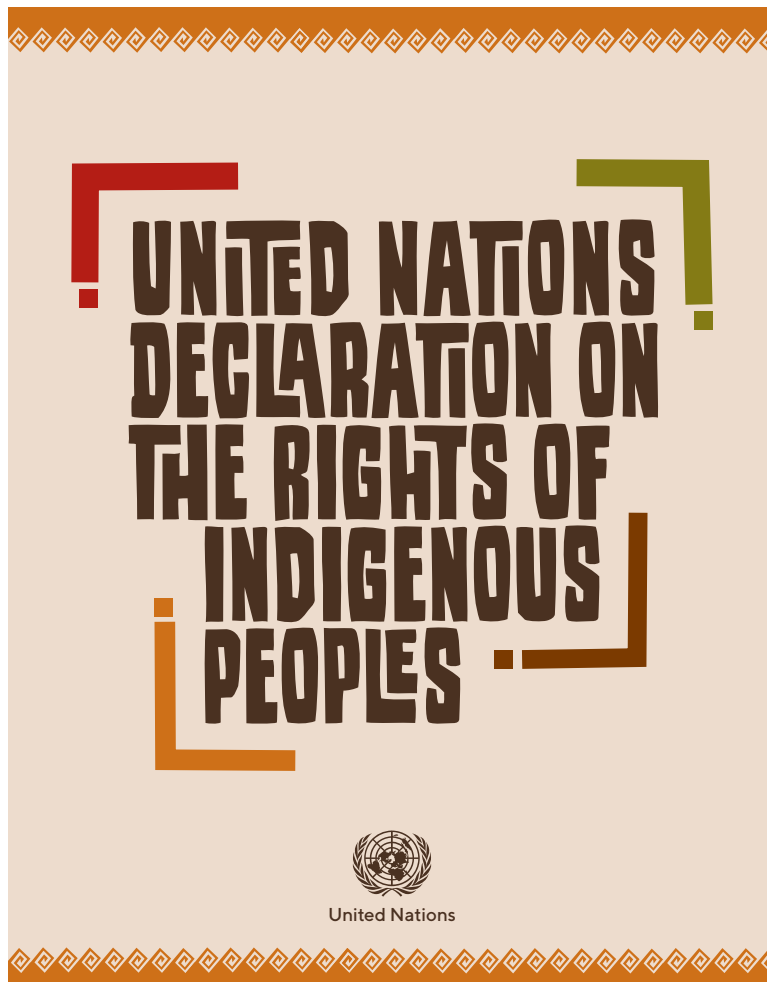


0-272



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# UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



United Nations



## **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007**

*[without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.67  
and Add.1)]*

### **61/295. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**


*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council contained in its resolution 1/2 of 29 June 2006<sup>1</sup>, by which the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

*Recalling* its resolution 61/178 of 20 December 2006, by which it decided to defer consideration of and action on the Declaration to allow time for further consultations thereon, and also decided to conclude its consideration before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,

---

<sup>1</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/61/53), part one, chap. II, sect. A.



***Adopts*** the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

*107th plenary meeting  
13 September 2007*

#### **Annex**

#### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*The General Assembly,*

***Guided*** by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,

***Affirming*** that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,



***Affirming*** further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust,

***Reaffirming*** that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind,

***Concerned*** that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

***Recognizing*** the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,

***Recognizing*** also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples



affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

**Welcoming** the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,

**Convinced** that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

**Recognizing** that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

**Emphasizing** the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,



**Recognizing** in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

**Considering** that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility and character,

**Considering** also that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

**Acknowledging** that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>3</sup> affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by

---

2 See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3 A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.



virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

***Bearing*** in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

***Convinced*** that the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith,

***Encouraging*** States to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned,

***Emphasizing*** that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples,



***Believing*** that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field,

***Recognizing and reaffirming*** that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

***Recognizing*** that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds should be taken into consideration,

***Solemnly proclaims*** the following United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect:

***Article 1***

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all





human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>4</sup> and international human rights law.

#### ***Article 2***

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

#### ***Article 3***

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

#### ***Article 4***

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

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<sup>4</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).



#### ***Article 5***

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

#### ***Article 6***

Every indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.

#### ***Article 7***

1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.



#### **Article 8**

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
  - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
  - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
  - (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
  - (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
  - (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.



#### ***Article 9***


Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

#### ***Article 10***

Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

#### ***Article 11***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

- 
2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

#### ***Article 12***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

#### ***Article 13***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future genera-




tions their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

#### ***Article 14***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including



those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

***Article 15***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

***Article 16***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous



cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.

***Article 17***

1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.
2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.
3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.

***Article 18***

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect





their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

***Article 19***

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

***Article 20***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.



#### ***Article 21***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

#### ***Article 22***

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.



### ***Article 23***

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

### ***Article 24***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.



#### ***Article 25***

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

#### ***Article 26***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.



#### ***Article 27***

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

#### ***Article 28***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take



the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

***Article 29***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.



### ***Article 30***

1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.
2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

### ***Article 31***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the




right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

#### ***Article 32***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and





appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

***Article 33***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

***Article 34***

Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.



#### ***Article 35***

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities.

#### ***Article 36***

1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.
2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

#### ***Article 37***

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and re-



spect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

***Article 38***

States in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

***Article 39***

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

***Article 40***

Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective



remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

***Article 41***

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

***Article 42***

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.



***Article 43***

The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

***Article 44***

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

***Article 45***

Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

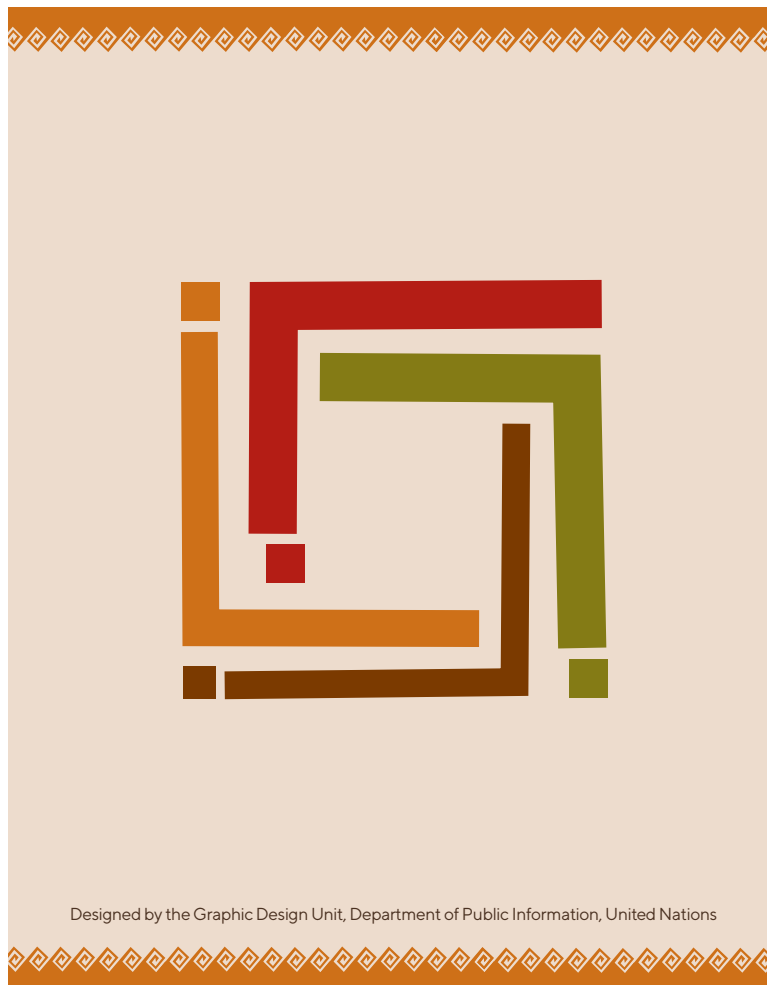
***Article 46***

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismem-



ber or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.
3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.



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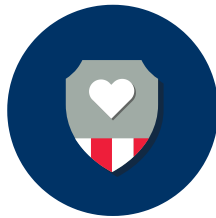
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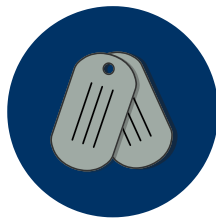




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# FEATURE: Okinawan women's civic group chronicles sex crimes by U.S. military



By Tomomi Tomita, **KYODO NEWS** - Mar 5, 2021 - 17:15 | [All, Japan](#)



NAHA, Japan – In a book by an Okinawan women's civic group documenting sex crimes by U.S. soldiers in Japan, a 9-month-old infant girl is listed as the youngest rape victim.

Among a litany of cases the group began compiling after the rape of an Okinawan elementary schoolgirl by three U.S. soldiers in 1995, the 1949 crime by a U.S. serviceman who was an acquaintance of the baby's mother stands out as arguably the most heinous and unimaginable -- the baby reportedly died soon afterward.

But the acts of sexual violence by U.S. servicemen are likely to be even more extensive than research has so far uncovered, according to the group, called Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence.

"We need to uncover how much pain has been caused to people because of the military stationed here," said Suzuyo Takazato, 80, co-chair of the group. It has published a chronology titled, "Postwar U.S. Military Crimes Against Women in



Photo taken on Feb. 4, 2021 in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, shows Suzuyo Takazato, co-chair of Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence, holding up the 12th edition of "Postwar U.S. Military Crimes Against Women in Okinawa." (Kyodo)

According to Harumi Mivagi, a researcher of

with Takazato on the project, the baby, who was taken away by the U.S. serviceman, "clearly" had been sexually assaulted and died after she was returned to the mother.

Other cases include a teenage girl who suffered a mental breakdown after being raped by a U.S. soldier in front of her father and older brother in the mid-1950s, a high school girl who was raped in a park by three U.S. servicemen on her way home from school in 1984 and a 20-year-old woman whose body was discovered after she had been raped and murdered by a U.S. civilian-military employee in 2016.

The booklet (also in English), which was six pages when it was first published in 1996, is now 26 pages long since the most recent

publication in 2016 -- a poignant history of the suffering women have endured as a sacrifice for Japan's security in Okinawa, which bears the brunt of hosting U.S. military bases in the country.

According to government documents, newspaper articles, and testimonies compiled by the group, such atrocities have occurred since immediately after U.S. soldiers landed to fight in the Battle of Okinawa in April 1945 during World War II.

A public outcry was sparked over the September 1995 rape of a Japanese schoolgirl, leading to a massive protest to denounce the U.S. troops stationed in Okinawa, attended by more than 85,000 people in a park in Ginowan on Oct. 21, 1995. The ripple effects of outrage were felt across Japan.

The girl's case led to a review of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement and a request to reorganize and reduce the number of bases, while the problem ignited a political firestorm between the two countries over the delay in handing over the suspects to Japanese authorities. But it was a call to action for Takazato.

"The perspective one can take on the bases can completely differ depending on who is looking at them and from what angle. Looking at the bases from the point of view of the sex crimes committed by U.S. soldiers clearly shows me one essence of the

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Takazato, who lives in the capital of Naha and previously worked as a women's counselor, said she was questioned in the wake of the girl's rape by the media inside and outside Japan about the number of sex crimes committed over the decades by U.S. soldiers but had no answers.

Although there have been arrests made since the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972, Takazato said that based on her experience as a women's counselor, she believes scores of cases have occurred without ever being prosecuted.

That is when she started to comb through newspaper articles and books, arranging the content of U.S. military rape cases she found in chronological order to make a booklet.

In February 1996, with the completed first edition of the booklet in hand, she visited the United States with Okinawan women to appeal to the American public and was met with astonishment and tears from some people who said they had "no idea" of the reality.

The group's members delved further into available documents, such as local government materials under the American occupation of Okinawa, official U.S. documents, and prefectural history to unearth clues about unresolved cases, eventually publishing a 12th edition, which depicts stark details of roughly 350 U.S. military sex crimes.

An article published in Time magazine on Nov. 28, 1949, entitled, "Okinawa: Forgotten Island," which is cited in the booklet, called Okinawa during the U.S. occupation "a dumping ground for Army misfits and rejects..." The article adds: "In the six months ending last September, U.S. soldiers committed an appalling number of crimes -- 29 murders, 18 rape cases, 16 robberies, 33 assaults."



Photo taken on Feb. 4, 2021 in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, shows copies of the 12th edition of "Postwar U.S. Military Crimes Against Women in Okinawa." (Kyodo)

In current times, some critics have suggested that the incidence rate of sex crimes is much higher for citizens of the prefecture than for U.S. military personnel in Okinawa. Takazato, however, believes the real figure for U.S. servicemen is likely much higher than official figures suggest, partly because she believes women have been afraid to come forward.

As recently as February this year, a U.S. Marine Corps member was arrested in Okinawa for allegedly kissing a woman by force and pulling off her underwear, and, as the group continues to monitor sex crimes by U.S. servicemen, it is scheduled to publish a 13th edition of the booklet this year.

"With the continued stationing of soldiers who commit violence, women's human rights are repeatedly being violated. The military bases issue is a human rights issue," Takazato emphasized, calling for the withdrawal of U.S. soldiers from Okinawa.

Some young women who were raped and found out they were pregnant afterward had abortions, while others, unable to have an abortion, gave birth to children who were eventually put up for adoption.

After learning of the chronology, there was even a case of a woman who contacted the group to say she had been sexually assaulted by a U.S. serviceman while still an elementary school student. "I want you also to record my testimony," she was quoted

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Takazato and her group have only uncovered the tip of the iceberg, she says, adding, "Countless women are living in pain, suffering, and fear who have not been able to tell anyone."

The group's mission is "shedding light on the existence of women who have been forced into silence and creating a society where they feel they can speak out," Takazato said.

Mar 5, 2021 | **KYODO NEWS**



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**Businesses**

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# Businesses

American Savings Bank .....	B-1
Hawaiian Electric.....	B-2
Hawaiian Electric.....	B-3
Hawaiian Electric Industries.....	B-6
Integrated Security Technologies .....	B-7

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# American Savings Bank

American Savings Bank supports the military in Hawaii and the vital role it plays in ensuring the safety and security of our state and the entire Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Our military's readiness relies on the ability of the Army and other services, including the Hawaii National Guard and Marines, to prepare and train.

As a company with deep roots in Hawaii, we have the utmost respect for the environment and Native Hawaiian community. We encourage the Army to engage and work with the Native Hawaiian community, and all Hawaii residents, in its efforts to retain critical military training areas.

Mahalo,  
Gabriel Lee  
American Savings Bank  
Executive Vice President, Commercial Markets



SCOTT W. H. SEU  
President and Chief Executive Officer

August 19, 2021

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii  
c/o Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
PO Box 3444  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3444

Re: Army Training Land Retention O'ahu EIS - Scoping

The presence of the U.S. military on O'ahu is a foundational element of our national security and Hawai'i's economy, underscoring the importance of the preceding Environmental Impact Statement and continuing community engagement.

Hawaiian Electric recognizes the critical nature of the military's mission in Hawai'i and across the Indo-Pacific region and supports its need for training areas at Kahuku, Poamoho and Mākua as vital components of its readiness. This support is given with the recognition that the military can be a successful and responsible steward of these lands only through meaningful engagement and partnership with the community and its commitment to address the concerns raised through the scoping process and other forums.

Hawaiian Electric values its relationships with the communities and customers it serves and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Scott W. H. Seu  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# Hawaiian Electric

Good evening. Earlier today our CEO filed a scoping comment and his signature was inadvertently omitted from the letter. I've attached the letter with the signature and hope this can be placed in the record. Thanks, let me know if any questions. Jim Kelly JIM KELLY Vice President Government and Community Relations Corporate Communications O: XXX.XXX.XXXX | M: XXX.XXX.XXXX Hawaiian Electric PO Box 2750, Honolulu HI 96840

**From:** [Overton, Kayla R CIV USARMY IMCOM PACIFIC \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Wahl, Gregory T CIV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CIV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#); [Rush, Stephanie A CIV USARMY IMCOM PACIFIC \(USA\)](#); [Bugala, Amy L CIV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Hawaiian Electric scoping comment re Army training facilities (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 19:33:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [8-19-21 Ltr of Support re Army EIS to retain training lands.pdf](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Aloha all,  
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Thank you,  
Kayla

**From:** Kelly, Jim <jim.kelly@hawaiianelectric.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 7:09 PM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaiian Electric scoping comment re Army training facilities

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Good evening.  
Earlier today our CEO filed a scoping comment and his signature was inadvertently omitted from the letter.  
I've attached the letter with the signature and hope this can be placed in the record.  
Thanks, let me know if any questions.  
Jim Kelly

**JIM KELLY**  
Vice President  
Government and Community Relations  
Corporate Communications

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**Hawaiian Electric**  
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< Caution-<http://www.hawaiianelectric.com/> >

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# Hawaiian Electric Industries

Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) supports the continued ability of the Army and other services, including Hawaii's own National Guard and the Marines, to train in Hawaii both on Oahu and at Pohakuloa. As a company with roots in Hawaii dating back more than 130 years, we believe the presence of our U. S. military in Hawaii is critical to the strength and sustainability of our economy and communities. This has been particularly true during challenging times like the current pandemic.

We applaud and encourage our military leaders to continue to engage and collaborate with our communities. The preceding EIS and community engagement are vital to support military readiness as the ability to train in Hawaii supports all Hawaii-based military actions and across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you for allowing us to express our support.

Sincerely,

Constance H. Lau  
President & CEO, HEI



## Christine Lanning

Integrated Security Technologies (IST) supports the ability of the Army and other services including the Hawaii National Guard and the Marines to train both on Oahu as well as Pohakuloa Training Area. In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, I (Christine Lanning) underscores that the preceding EIS and community engagement are vital to support military readiness as it supports all Hawaii-based military actions and across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. As a cleared contractor I have access to lot of information related to the ongoing threat. It's serious and access to training areas is critical is preparing our military to mitigate that threat!

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## Individuals

Contact information was redacted for privacy.

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## Marie Abaya

This land should be returned to the natives of Hawaii.

The U.S. Army should leave these islands.

## Abbi Abshire

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... this land should be given back to the indigenous people. the us military should not be on this land at all. get off you imperialist, genocidal \*\*\*\*\*. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. us occupation of hawai‘i is illegitimate and should be ended. return hawai‘i

From: [Abbi Abshire](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Abbi Abshire  
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 7:56:34 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Abbi Abshire
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Sacramento, California 95831
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	this land should be given back to the indigenous people. the us military should not be on this land at all. get off you imperialist, genocidal assholes.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The

exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of



conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

us occupation of hawai'i is illegitimate and  
should be ended. return hawai'i

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## Heiley Acoba

Okay. Thank you. I'm Heiley Acoba from Ko'olaupoko of Oahu, and I oppose the extension of the leases, as it would mean further desecration and mismanagement of 'aina and cultural sites, further displacement of kanaka maoli, and supporting the continued U.S.'s illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom's 'aina. The military needs to clean up and de-occupy our 'aina. Mahalo to everyone who expressed their opposition tonight.

## Anna Acosta

My name is Anna and I live in Nevada. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Mahuku, Wahiawā.  
Make the military leave and give the people their land back.

## Alex Adams

To whom it may concern,

I think it best that the Army, and more widely the US military, remove themselves from the training installations on the Hawaiian Islands.

There has been enough abuse towards the people and the land of Hawaii.

Signed,  
Alex Adams

## Sheyla Adaya

Hello,

My name is Sheyla Adaya and I'm a resident of Illinois. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military lease on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā .

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964, When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely, Sheyla



**From:** [Sheyla Adava](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Give the people of Hawaii their land back  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:09:21 AM

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Hello,

My name is Sheyla Adava and I'm a resident of Illinois. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military lease on the lands of **Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā** .

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964, When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely,  
Sheyla

## Nico Addams

Aloha, My name is Nico and I'm a resident of Oakland. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Please reconsider for the sake of the already suffering environment and for the Indigenous people of Hawaii,

Nico Addams Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

**From:** Nico Addams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:57  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Stop the lease extensions on Hawaiian public lands!

Aloha,  
My name is Nico and I'm a resident of Oakland. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Please reconsider for the sake of the already suffering environment and for the Indigenous people of Hawaii,

Nico Addams  
Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

## Kerstyn Afuso

To whom it may concern: As a person who loves Hawai'i and her people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each. Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered.

You have taken away land and paid a mere \$1 for it when Hawaiians can no longer afford to live in their own home and to buy food for their family. You don't care to begin to understand the trauma that taking away land from this Native population has done on the people and the food system. We continue to fight against effects of climate change and future disasters and the way in which the military continues to lease lands for a fraction of the price that Hawaiians do, goes to show that they have no care for the future of Hawaii. How can we let someone occupy our land who does not care about sustaining it? The land could be used for the people who actually call this place home and are working to create food for our people to help sustain us in the case where our food supply is cut off by a natural disaster that is overdue.

Please do not extend the lease of the military unless you wish to see Hawaii's land and people gone.

Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include: 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises. 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies. 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

**From:** [Kerstyn Afuso](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Support for the No Action Alternative for the State lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaioloa-Poamoho  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 10:37:42 AM

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To whom it may concern:

As a person who loves Hawai'i and her people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaioloa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered.

You have taken away land and paid a mere \$1 for it when Hawaiians can no longer afford to live in their own home and to buy food for their family. You don't care to begin to understand the trauma that taking away land from this Native population has done on the people and the food system. We continue to fight against effects of climate change and future disasters and the way in which the military continues to lease lands for a fraction of the price that Hawaiians do, goes to show that they have no care for the future of Hawaii. How can we let someone occupy our land who does not care about sustaining it? The land could be used for the people who actually call this place home and are working to create food for our people to help sustain us in the case where our food supply is cut off by a natural disaster that is overdue.

Please do not extend the lease of the military unless you wish to see Hawai'i's land and people gone.

Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

- 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises.
- 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies.
- 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

## Daniela Aguirre

Hello, my name is Daniela Aguirre from California I please ask of you to not extend the land leases of the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa in O'ahu. The military residing there will cause damage to the biodiversity of Hawai'i and it will be very bad for the environment. Also the lease payments are very low by one dollar please I beg of you return the land to the indigenous Hawaiians and the homestead people. Thank you, Daniela Aguirre

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**From:** Daniela Aguirre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 12:06  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]

Hello, my name is Daniela Aguirre from California I please ask of you to not extend the land leases of the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa in O'ahu. The military residing there will cause damage to the biodiversity of Hawai'i and it will be very bad for the environment. Also the lease payments are very low by one dollar please I beg of you return the land to the indigenous Hawaiians and the homestead people.  
Thank you,  
Daniela Aguirre

## Noelani Ahia

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the

cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our

communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Noelani Ahia  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Noelani Ahia  
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021 10:34:43 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Noelani Ahia

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Wailuku 96793

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We

need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

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the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

Powered by





## Christine Ahn

Aloha.

I'm writing to recommend that the state of Hawaii not renew the leases in four parcels to the US military:

- 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island,
- 4,370 acres at the Kawaiiloa/ Poamoho Training Area,
- 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area; and
- 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation

These parcels were leased for \$1 for 65 years. That is robbery and the land should be returned to the rightful owners: the people of Hawaii.

These parcels of land have been abused by the military and endanger the future security and well-being of the people living here.

As a mother of a fourth grader at Punahou, I am greatly concerned that Hawai'i will become ground zero for a future military conflict between the US and China. Renewing these leases will only further militarize our islands and make us a target.

We need to re-imagine a different kind of future where all of our problems are not solved militarily, which has cost tens of thousands of US' soldiers lives in US wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, not to mention drain our coffers of much needed public dollars for investments that give us true security, such as healthcare, affordable housing and environmental protection.

Let's make Hawaii a region of peace and dialogue, not a launching pad for US military forays throughout Asia and the Pacific. Please do not re-lease 30,000 acres of precious land; this land should instead go towards farmers and ecological stewards of our aina.

Mahalo nui for inviting community voices,

Sincerely

Christine Ahn

Executive Director

Women Cross DMZ

Manoa resident

## Kylie Akiona

"Aloha. My name is Kylie Akiona and I was born and raised in Mililani. And leaving this message to express my strong opposition to the extension and military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. As kanaka maoli we fought tirelessly for 123 years against the legal annexation and military occupation of our ancestral indigenous lands. The US military presence in Hawaii has been nothing but harmful for people, our culture, our environment and our livelihoods. These leases are internationally recognized as unlawful and morally wrong, these lands should be restored to my people as reparations for the harm inflicted by you. Do you know what the ethical thing to do is, and it's up to you to step up and do it. Mahalo nui for your time.

## Nancy Aleck

Many renters are facing eviction right now. They are not the ones who run the hearing. The power imbalance is striking from the beginning here! But, I will address not only the lease-holders, but the others in this cast of long-term oppression.

To the Generals and the DoD officials; to the entry-level ranks who forever will be “following orders;” to the elected and selected officials continuing a legacy of pork hoarders, a mantle picked up by so many striving towards what appeared to be a shining sword wielded by the late Dan Inouye:

I do not imagine that my testimony or my plea will change course of things—right now. I’m in the books for submitting testimony at past meetings, scoping sessions, EIS hearings. Like so many others, unheard, ignored, and the beat went on. But every time we show up, we collectively strain the fabric a bit more. Someday, the giant rip will set the aina free. Many are already preparing for that time, caring for the aina, exploring new forms of economics, guiding themselves and each other in kapu aloha. I was there when we were unheard and ignored in calling for an end to the Vietnam War. It took years, but our cries not only began to be heard but respected, and popular opinion shifted. What has been done to Makua and Pohakuloa, what you are doing to Kahuku and Wahiawa—it is all hewa. Most horrific. Irresponsible and wrong. I believe deep down some of you may feel this already. Surely, your children will know, and carry the weight of what you perpetuate. Shame on Hawaii “officials” who then and now allow these leases to continue and defile the land. When our pressure rips the fabric of militarism, the light will shine through and the land will thrive. NO LEASE RENEWAL • Vote the NO ACTION Alternative • #LAND BACK!

Very Sincerely,

Nancy Aleck

**From:** [Nancy Aleck](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments; poelani@kalipienteprises.com; gtam@hivetsolutions.com; dlnr.land@hawaii.gov; dlnr@hawaii.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] This is NOT a FONSI!  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 14:03:43 PM

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*Many renters are facing eviction right now. They are not the ones who run the hearing. The power imbalance is striking from the beginning here! But, I will address not only the lease-holders, but the others in this cast of long-term oppression.*

To the Generals and the DoD officials; to the entry-level ranks who forever will be “following orders;” to the elected and selected officials continuing a legacy of pork hoarders, a mantle picked up by so many striving towards what appeared to be a shining sword wielded by the late Dan Inouye:

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Shame on Hawaii “officials” who then and now allow these leases to continue and defile the land. When our pressure rips the fabric of militarism, the light will shine through and the land will thrive.

NO LEASE RENEWAL • Vote the NO ACTION Alternative • #LAND BACK!

Very Sincerely,

Nancy Aleck  
[REDACTED]  
Honolulu 96839

## Rosanna Alegado

Aloha. My name is Rosanna Alonali Alegato and I'm a resident of Ahuimanu, on the island of Oahu. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. For decades, my family has been in opposition to excessive military use of Hawaiian lands. These lands have been damaged by the impacts of the US military and have caused tremendous ecosystem impacts that need to be reversed. These lands have cultural significance and should be returned to the people of Hawaii. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for just \$1 a year since 1964 and when the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately be restored to the public. Where it can do much better good as natural lands as land that people have access to. And so, for these reasons, I am highly opposed please focus on the environmental impacts that should be abundantly clear in these areas

## Jason Mark Alexander

Thank you. Aloha. My name is Jason Mark Alexander. I am currently a sociology Ph.D. student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. And I stand in solidarity with the kanaka maoli that have spoken here tonight. And if you have not had the opportunity to come to this very short window of time in that, you can be at least controlled, then, yeah. Your presentation was pretty disgusting. As you speak towards transparency and serving the people, you glossed over any negative ramifications to the further leasing of the lands. I strongly oppose any further leasing. You frequently mentioned state-owned lands many, many times during the presentation -- that's probably the highest-frequency word -- and completely ignore the stolen nature of the land, which you are fully aware of. You privilege the essential mission of the military, which basically is to kill other people, and you want our troops to train safely. And your rank itself is one that's been created by rich white men. So the racism inherent in your position in the military presence on this land cannot be ignored. Even if you say you're defending peace and bring peace, it's not a good peace if there's no justice, and there's no justice if you continue to be here. If you don't care about what is legal and what is illegal, the effects are still that you're going to create more pain against people who have had generations of pain, and you've been listening to people who know all this stuff that you're claiming you are in a position to investigate. I don't believe the military can reform or do any environmentally safe practice by consulting other people and taking into account what's the best environmentally safe way to manage these lands, because you are not in a position to restore those lands. The military's existence is a state monopoly on violence. It serves as violence. ... Yes. So, Colonel Misigoy, I speak directly to you. I don't know where everyone else in charge of this project is, but you're in a position to make change. You're responsible to communicate what you're fully aware of as you've been listening tonight, and you cannot be silent. You need to teach your soldiers and your comrades and your superiors that the military needs to stop and get out. Thank you.

## Carrie Alford

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. Enough already!!

From: Carrie Alford  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Carrie Alford  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:12:56 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Carrie Alford

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Haleiwa

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We

need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people



should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become

greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Enough already!!



## Chloe Allen

Aloha,

I, Chloe Allen, disapprove of the military renewing this land for government use! I am a resident of Oklahoma. First of all, it is unheard of to pay 1 dollar for that much land. Not to mention uprooting the lives of the indigenous people that live there. They have to endure military procedures because they hear it from their beds. They have no choice but to wake up when they do. They have no choice to hear gunshots and bombs as if this were modern day Pearl Harbor.

The government has wrongfully leased this land since 1964. It's not that we don't need the military we definitely do. It's just the government takes more than what the people do. When this land lease expires in 2029, we need to come up with a compromise. Some people want all the land returned. We all simply know this won't happen. If we could compromise, say if even half of it was given back to the people. I'm sure they would be elated. Also maybe pay a proper taxes for the land that you do keep. Or give back to the people of this land. Because they have endured so much just from living next to you. The least that we ask is to be curious and kind of your neighbors.

The military being here, it has cause mass devastation from the natural habitats being destroyed. As well as, native species whether that be plants or animals. Even if you are not a fan of the environment, the ratio of government owned land to Hawaiian Homestead land is not equal.

I oppose all of this land getting renewed for government use.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Chloe Allen](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] 6,300 acres  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:10:37 AM

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Aloha,

I, Chloe Allen, disapprove of the military renewing this land for government use! I am a resident of Oklahoma. First of all, it is unheard of to pay 1 dollar for that much land. Not to mention uprooting the lives of the indigenous people that live there. They have to endure military procedures because they hear it from their beds. They have no choice but to wake up when they do. They have no choice to hear gunshots and bombs as if this were modern day Pearl Harbor.

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I oppose all of this land getting renewed for government use.

Thank you for your time.

## Paige Allen

To Whom it May Concern:I have recently learned about the US Army's intention to lease O'ahu lands belonging to Native Hawaiians for a total lease of \$1 for the next 65 years in Wahhiawa, Kahuku and Makua. This is an opportunity to return the land to its rightful custodians - the indigenous Hawaiians - and lessen US military presence in the islands. There is no need for the land to be held in trust for the Hawaiian kingdom. Simply return the land. Respectfully,Paige Allen US citizenAlbany, NY



**From:** [Paige Allen](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Wahhiawa, Kahuku and Makua  
**Date:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:34:18 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I have recently learned about the US Army's intention to lease O'ahu lands belonging to Native Hawaiians for a total lease of \$1 for the next 65 years in Wahhiawa, Kahuku and Makua. This is an opportunity to return the land to its rightful custodians - the indigenous Hawaiians - and lessen US military presence in the islands. There is no need for the land to be held in trust for the Hawaiian kingdom. Simply return the land.

Respectfully,  
Paige Allen  
US citizen  
Albany, NY

Eli Allison

Hi,I'm Eli, and I'm a U.S. citizen. I was sent to this email address from your phone line. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. Continuing these leases will continue the military destruction of the sacred natural areas, damage ecosystems (including the homes of many endangered species), and disrupt the lives of the local community. Army use and destruction of this land is contributing to climate change, and returning it to its natural state would help slow it.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for 1\$ since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land would immediately be restored to the public, to the Native Hawaiians that never agreed to give it up.

Thank you, and I trust you will listen to the many people writing and calling, and the many more that have been advocating for the land throughout the United States occupation.

**From:** Eli Allison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:06  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii lease extention

Hi,  
I'm Eli, and I'm a U.S. citizen. I was sent to this email address from your phone line. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

Continuing these leases will continue the military destruction of the sacred natural areas, damage ecosystems (including the homes of many endangered species), and disrupt the lives of the local community. Army use and destruction of this land is contributing to climate change, and returning it to its natural state would help slow it.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for 1\$ since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land would immediately be restored to the public, to the Native Hawaiians that never agreed to give it up.

Thank you, and I trust you will listen to the many people writing and calling, and the many more that have been advocating for the land throughout the United States occupation.

Miguel Almodovar

Let Hawaiians have their land!!! Do not renew this lease!!

## Raed Alsemari

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the

cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our

communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Raed Alsemari  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:50  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Raed Alsemari

### Koa Futures

#### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Raed Alsemari
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	alsemari.raed@gmail.com
I RESIDE IN:	Brooklyn, New York 11211
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	<p>Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ʻāina. The leasing of ʻāina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ʻāina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on Oʻahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the</p>

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related

military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-

ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Xochitl Alvarado

Aloha, My name is Xochitl Alvarado and I am a resident of Sacramento, California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.



**From:** [Xochitl Alvarado](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 15:59:25 PM

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Aloha,  
My name is Xochitl Alvarado and I am a resident of Sacramento, California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## Chloe Amos

"Hello, my name is Chloe Amos and I'm a resident of Mililani on the island of Oahu and I'm submitting testimony to strongly oppose any renewal of military leases. On land on Oahu. The environmental impact survey should include information about helicopter training that goes on through the night past 10 o'clock, which is a huge disrespect to civilian residents and the environmental impact survey should also include Information about unexploded ordinances in the back of the Makua Valley, due to military use there. Thank you very much. "

## Kelsey Amos

Aloha, my primary comment is that as a community member, I do not support the extension of any of the leases. Secondly, below is a list of suggestions I'd like to submit as part of the public scoping process on what should be included in the EIS.

1. The EIS on the Army Training Land Retention O'ahu should consider the impacts on Native Hawaiians, 'āina, and women & and girls.

Given the extreme importance of land in Hawaiian culture, what are the impacts on Native Hawaiians--socially, emotionally, and economically--of having these large tracts of land used for military training purposes without their consent? What cultural resources do these lands hold, and what have been the impacts of not having access to these cultural resources for so long?

What are the impacts on 'āina of military use for training purposes? What are the impacts on erosion, groundwater, air quality, endangered species and ecosystems, and contamination via hazardous materials such as waste and unexploded ordnance? Is the retention of these lands compatible with land use conservation mandates?

What are the impacts on women and girls of these training areas? Are women and girls in communities around military training areas and installations safe from sexual assault and trafficking? Do they have access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities?

2. The EIS should explore not just the future impacts of retaining these lands, but should research and document the impacts already felt by the stakeholders mentioned above over the course of the last 65-year lease.

3. The EIS should explore the legality of Army use of these lands, when significant portions of the lands are Hawaiian Kingdom Crown & Government lands that were transferred due to the illegal overthrow and annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

4. The EIS should--in addition to exploring the impacts of the outlined Alternatives 1, 2, and 3--also consider the opportunity cost of these alternatives. In other words, the EIS should consider the possible positive impacts of the "No Action Alternative."

What are the cultural services that could be provided by these lands if access for Native Hawaiians was free, unimpeded, and safe?

What are the ecosystem services provided by these lands?

What are the opportunities for education, stewardship, housing, or other uses to which these lands could be put?

What is the fair market value of these lands, and how does that compare with the \$1 lease that the Army pays?

5. The Army has stated that the training lands remain essential to their mission. The EIS public scoping and draft commenting process should solicit input from community organizations about if and how these lands are essential to their own missions and visions for their communities.

To end, I'd like to say that I understand that training is critical to the DOD's Indo-Pacific strategy--especially the focus on "preparedness." However I do not support simply moving all the training to some other location, where the same negative impacts of training can be visited on

another community and their land, whether those communities are inside or outside of the U.S.

Rather, I think we need to rethink the Indo-Pacific strategy and the broader way that the U.S. sees its global role. The U.S. is not exceptional, and its interests do not carry more moral force than any other nation's interests. The U.S. should prioritize actual peace and coexistence, rather than practicing forward posturing that--rather than deterring threats--only contributes to a cycle of inciting adversaries, necessitating the buildup of more lethal force, and leaving the whole region in an increasing state of precarity.



**From:** [Anjali Roy](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Commentary on extension of leases for US military  
**Date:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 8:50:27 AM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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I am writing to second the following concerns about the extension of US military leases of Hawaiian lands:

As a community member, I do not support the extension of any of the leases. Secondly, below is a list of suggestions I'd like to submit as part of the public scoping process on what should be included in the EIS.

1. The EIS on the Army Training Land Retention O'ahu should consider the impacts on Native Hawaiians, 'āina, and women & and girls.

- Given the extreme importance of land in Hawaiian culture, what are the impacts on Native Hawaiians--socially, emotionally, and economically--of having these large tracts of land used for military training purposes without their consent? What cultural resources do these lands hold, and what have been the impacts of not having access to these cultural resources for so long?
- What are the impacts on 'āina of military use for training purposes? What are the impacts on erosion, groundwater, air quality, endangered species and ecosystems, and contamination via hazardous materials such as waste and unexploded ordnance? Is the retention of these lands compatible with land use conservation mandates?
- What are the impacts on women and girls of these training areas? Are women and girls in communities around military training areas and installations safe from sexual assault and trafficking? Do they have access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities?

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of the lands are Hawaiian Kingdom Crown & Government lands that were transferred due to the illegal overthrow and annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

4. The EIS should--in addition to exploring the impacts of the outlined Alternatives 1, 2, and 3--also consider the opportunity cost of these alternatives. In other words, the EIS should consider the possible positive impacts of the "No Action Alternative."

- What are the cultural services that could be provided by these lands if access for Native Hawaiians was free, unimpeded, and safe?
- What are the ecosystem services provided by these lands?
- What are the opportunities for education, stewardship, housing, or other uses to which these lands could be put?
- What is the fair market value of these lands, and how does that compare with the \$1 lease that the Army pays?

5. The Army has stated that the training lands remain essential to their mission. The EIS public scoping and draft commenting process should solicit input from community organizations about if and how these lands are essential to their own missions and visions for their communities.

To end, I'd like to say that I understand that training is critical to the DOD's Indo-Pacific strategy--especially the focus on "preparedness." However I do not support simply moving all the training to some other location, where the same negative impacts of training can be visited on another community and their land, whether those communities are inside or outside of the U.S.

Rather, I think we need to rethink the Indo-Pacific strategy and the broader way that the U.S. sees its global role. The U.S. is not exceptional, and its interests do not carry more moral force than any other nation's interests. The U.S. should prioritize actual peace and coexistence, rather than practicing forward posturing that--rather than deterring threats--only contributes to a cycle of inciting adversaries, necessitating the buildup of more lethal force, and leaving the whole region in an increasing state of precarity.

Kelsey Amos

[Redacted signature block]

seconded by me, Anjoli Roy, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Honolulu, HI 96822

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website: XXXXXXXX < Caution-http://XXXXXXX>

podcast: "It's Lit" with PhDJ < Caution-http://www.XXXXX >  
*featuring writers to love and the music their work plays best around*

## Diane Anderson

Hello. Yes, I'm. My name is Diane Anderson my telephone number is area code XXX-XXX-XXXX. I live in Kailua on Oahu and I am calling about the EIS, and would like to bring the attention to who is overseeing the airspace for the training, especially in Kailua and Poamoho. The, it seems to me that no one has really oversight and knows what's going on and who's using the airspace. I have called repeatedly over years and years and years to complain about excessive military helicopter noise along the coastline and I've suggested for years and years that if they have military has the use of all of the agricultural lands in the Kailua Poamoho areas, that they should not disturb all the residents that live along the coast by flying up and down over our homes back over to the agricultural land. That if they're going to get this lease renewed someone needs to have some oversight and limit the amount of time that we as residents here are impacted. I particularly have more than Many months of the year in the evening. Sometimes 10-12 helicopters every 20 minutes going up and down and across my house. That's unacceptable to me, I either have to sell my home and move somewhere else. Or try to get the military to do their majority of training over the agricultural land that no residents are living and scrap their little checkpoints at Dillingham airfield along and Kailua point. I'm sorry to not be supportive of the military, but I think that it is really become too much over the years and years and years. So I hope to be able to come up and testify in person, but it is simply unacceptable today that we have a crowded island and so much helicopter training that goes on here. Thank you for taking this making this possible that I can actually call and leave this message. And I sincerely hope that someone will take seriously the community complaints. Thank you XXX-XXX-XXXX. I don't know if you can hear it but as I leave this message at one minute to 6pm Here they go again, the Army National Guard, the Marines, the Air Force everyone uses the airspace on the north shore of Oahu and yet no one will admit to having an oversight of who is it and can they minimize it. Please. Anyway, thank you very much. Bye. "

## Joseph Anderson

The U.S Military should give back the land which it has taken from Native Hawaiians. Its continued use of sacred lands as bombing ranges in addition to hiding the use of depleted uranium rounds in the past has caused continued damages to the communities around these ranges. Besides returning these lands to the Native Hawaiian community the U.S military should also seek to compensate those affected for medical needs, in addition, to paybacks of the lost rent due to the military using its colonial leverage to get a lease for a measly \$1. If action isn't taken by the U.S to stop this continued occupation against the wishes of indigenous Hawaiians this matter should be sent to the U.N for violating the rights of indigenous peoples.

## Mychaela Anderson

Aloha,

I'm a resident of O'ahu, and I am opposed to the extension of military leases on Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. Extending these leases will ensure continued bombing and shooting, more explosives, that destroy our already endangered natural environment (especially endemic plants and animals) and disrupt the lives of Native Hawaiians and other local community members living in these areas. When these leases expire in 2029, they should be rightfully and immediately restored to the public. Land here is very scarce and needs to be protected by and for the native people to whom these lands originally belong to; the military in our state has plenty of access to land (given it's incredible number of bases on different islands) that it does not need to continue this specific lease.

Nathan Anderson

Hi, my name is Nathan and I am a resident of Lake Orion, Michigan. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, effectively destroying the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually the lives of the local community.  
The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the State for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public!  
Sincerely, Nathan  
Sent from my iPhone

<

## Teressa Anderson

This is unnecessary occupation on Hawaii, give the land back to the natives for them restore back to natural state

## Michael Andrews

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR. Extending these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources, destroy natural habitats, and disrupt the lives of the local community. When the leases expire, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Daniel Anthony

Okay. Okay. Perfect. Okay. Aloha mai kakou. Owau Daniel Anthony. I'm a subsistence farmer. I'm -- I'm -- really like to say that I'm opposed to any new leases of military land, especially at \$1 per lease. I'm willing to bid \$2. I'm a subsistence farmer.

The military currently controls 25 percent of Oahu. The military has unlimited amount of access to water. I would like to say that the resources that the military has impacts the Native Hawaiian community, especially our children. The reality is that I feel like the fence, that the military is laughing at the community. Everyone in the military continued to get paid during COVID while our community struggled.

We are -- we are experiencing an unprecedented inundation of visitors and people buying up our land, making it absolutely unaffordable. The lands that the military controls are clearly lands that have Land Commission awards and lawyer titles that need to be returned to the rightful heirs. This will allow for us to begin the process of farming our lands for the future.

As a taro farmer, I feel like the needs of the water in Waianae have not been met, since the military continues to use our resources. There were 12 rivers that are stolen from our community. With the water, so is the health of our people.

If we look, Native Hawaiians experienced the worst epidemic of diabetes, obesity, and ill health due to processed foods and the inability to access agricultural lands to feed ourselves.

Right now there is a huge explosion in our community of people wanting to farm, and especially farm taro, the most sustainable starch in the Pacific.

We are looking to the military to answer that, to play a vital role in our community. For too long, the military has been silent in our subsistence models.

I ask the question, what lands are you currently leasing to Native Hawaiian farmers or Native Hawaiian farming organizations? And of those lands, how many people are doing organic farming using non-imported agrochemicals?

I believe the answer is zero. If so, these needs need to be met immediately. Thank you, guys, so much for hearing me.

## Daniel Anthony

Sorry. Thank you, guys. Kanoa, I wanted to say mahalo to you for making the time tonight.

But I want to make just my own personal thought here is, like, you guys have some of the most sacred land in Hawai'i. If you want to continue to control it, pay fair market value. These lands -- 20 percent of the proceeds of these lands are supposed to go to the Native Hawaiian community. That means for a 65-year lease, the beneficiaries get 20 cents.

I want you to ask yourself how fair that is for our community, especially when on these same lands we could produce incredible amounts of food. Thank you.

## Leilani Antone

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Leilani Antone  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Leilani Antone  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 20:01:57 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Leilani Antone

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu 96825

I AM: A resident of O'ahu  
A Kanaka Maoli

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential

alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

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Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the

affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Jeanette Aquino

Hello, I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahoawā. I oppose having our military in Hawaiian territory. The land belongs to Hawaiian Natives. If you don't listen to the people speaking on behalf of the Hawaiian islands and asking in a democratic way then you are all communists.

Respectfully,

A United States Citizen

Rachel Arasato

AlohaMy name is Rachel Arasato and I have lived in Waianae for my entire 32 years of life. Since I was a child I remember traveling down to Makua and always seeing the military outpost at Makua Military Reservation. I remember hearing gun fire and explosive sounds echoing in the valley that did not fit in with the serene landscape. At the time I thought it was interesting because we never grew up with guns in our home, so the thought of live fire was intriguing to me as a child. But as I grew older and the same sounds continued through my adolescent and adult years, my views significantly changed. The Makua Military Reservation has become more and more of an environmental issue to our lands in Waianae. The military cars that drive through Makua valley compact the grounds and destroy native forestry. The blasts from explosives during target training are even more detrimental to the plants, animals and most importantly the top soil and land. Continued practices of explosives causes endemic plant death, erosion, deterioration of topsoil, runoff and ultimately exposed saprolitic soil (also known as hardpan) in which plants have a very difficult time taking root at all to grow. We need to stop these types of practices before it leads to a greater issue and a permanent changed landscape such as the one found on Kahoolawe. Explosives on Kahoolawe were so damaging during the 1950s through 1970s that it is now uninhabitable in certain areas from a cracked water table and massive erosion. There are also many areas of trail that civilians are not able to walk since there are still unexploded ordinances left behind from the military that were not removed. I was a college student when I got to visit Kahoolawe as a volunteer and provide community service. I have seen the devastation that the military has done, and continues to do, on our Hawaiian islands. The islands are too small for this type of abuse and can only sustain so much As a native Hawaiian, our land is very precious to maintaining the future growth of all peoples of Hawaii. If we want to continue to live and be sustainable on this island, harmful military practices need to cease. The Makua Military Reservation needs to give up their lease on the land and return it back to the state for better use. Now is not the time to prepare for war, now is the time for sustainable action before a fate worse than war happens to our people.

**From:** [Rachel Arasato](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua Reservation Lease End  
**Date:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 11:19:19 AM

Aloha

My name is Rachel Arasato and I have lived in Waianae for my entire 32 years of life. Since I was a child I remember traveling down to Makua and always seeing the military outpost at Makua Military Reservation. I remember hearing gun fire and explosive sounds echoing in the valley that did not fit in with the serene landscape. At the time I thought it was interesting because we never grew up with guns in our home, so the thought of live fire was intriguing to me as a child. But as I grew older and the same sounds continued through my adolescent and adult years, my views significantly changed.

The Makua Military Reservation has become more and more of an environmental issue to our lands in Waianae. The military cars that drive through Makua valley compact the grounds and destroy native forestry. The blasts from explosives during target training are even more detrimental to the plants, animals and most importantly the top soil and land. Continued practices of explosives causes endemic plant death, erosion, deterioration of topsoil, runoff and ultimately exposed saprolitic soil (also known as hardpan) in which plants have a very difficult time taking root at all to grow. We need to stop these types of practices before it leads to a greater issue and a permanent changed landscape such as the one found on Kahoolawe. Explosives on Kahoolawe were so damaging during the 1950s through 1970s that it is now uninhabitable in certain areas from a cracked water table and massive erosion. There are also many areas of trail that civilians are not able to walk since there are still unexploded ordinances left behind from the military that were not removed. I was a college student when I got to visit Kahoolawe as a volunteer and provide community service. I have seen the devastation that the military has done, and continues to do, on our Hawaiian islands. The islands are too small for this type of abuse and can only sustain so much

As a native Hawaiian, our land is very precious to maintaining the future growth of all peoples of Hawaii. If we want to continue to live and be sustainable on this island, harmful military practices need to cease. The Makua Military Reservation needs to give up their lease on the land and return it back to the state for better use.

Now is not the time to prepare for war, now is the time for sustainable action before a fate worse than war happens to our people.

## Adrienne Arcilla

Aloha, my name is Adrienne, I am a resident in Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extension on military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuka, Wahiwā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you, Adrienne

**From:** [Adrienne Arcilla](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] END MILITARY OCCUPATION IN HAWAII  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:00:23 AM

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Aloha,  
my name is Adrienne, I am a resident in Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extension on military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuka, Wahiwā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you, Adrienne

## Salma Argueta

The land should be given back to the rightful natives who have already had to go through enough.  
STOP TAKING LAND THAT ISNT FREAKING YOURS!

## Diana Arias Garcia

Hi, my name is Diana and I am a resident of Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When this lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Yuuko Arikawa-Cross

The military occupies a significant portion of the land in Hawai'i. The trade off of military presence to economic / social / environmental benefit is no longer tipped in its favor. Military personnel are exempt from paying Hawai'i state taxes, pay a minimal amount for car registration, and live off base more often than on base now permitting non-military individuals to rent base housing. Military individuals and spouses often rant about how much they hate it in Hawai'i and how the education system is subpar causing precious human and capital resources to fund many who are the least grateful. Environmentally, the lack of access to land for homes, cultural practices, food, and more are restricted. Furthermore, the long term environmental impacts on Kaho'olawe, Mākua, and more still remain. This environmental impact statement should encompass not only the physical land on which they restrict but also the environmental & social (human population) impacts which leach out into our greater communities.

## Madison Armentrout-Minjarez

Aloha, My name is Madison and I'm a resident of Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extensions of military leases on the islands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of the leases will allow the military to do further damage to the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local communities. The Army/All Military forces have wrongfully leased these lands from the state for a \$1 since 1964. When the lease expired in 2029, the land should immediately be restored and gifted back to the public.

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Military Lease Renewal (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:03:49 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS Comments

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**From:** Madison Armentrout-Minjarez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:06 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Lease Renewal

Aloha, My name is Madison and I'm a resident of Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extensions of military leases on the islands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of the leases will allow the military to do further damage to the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local communities. The Army/All Military forces have wrongfully leased these lands from the state for a \$1 since 1964. When the lease expired in 2029, the land should immediately be restored and gifted back to the public.

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Michelle Arvizu

The US has illegally occupied the United Kingdom of Hawaii for far too long. It is absolutely imperative that this land lease is not renewed as this would be the first step to giving Land Back to the Indigenous people of Hawaii. This is their land & it should not be used to continue perpetuating the imperialist regime of the United States. If this lease is renewed then this means that there is no care for the land or it's people. Do the right thing & give the land back!

## Corey Asano

"Aloha. My name is Corey Asano. I reside in Kaneohe. Born and raised. Lived my whole life in Hawaii, my family originally comes from Kaaawa, raised in Haleiwa and now reside in Kaneohe. I'm calling to submit testimony, I am strongly against renewing any kind of lease. The US military has no business in Hawaii, they do more harm than good. I have experienced firsthand that over living on this aina for 45 years. Lots of problems caused by just the US military presence, the US military is the arm of the government. So by being here a lot of stuff are forced upon the Hawaiian people. A lot of lands are taken. The \$1 for the lease is just crazy. Yeah, I disagree with any type of training live fire exercises continuing on any place in Hawaii. Mahalo "

## Charlie Ashcom

I believe that the occupation of native Hawaiian land needs to end. You are occupying that space unlawfully, and it deserves to be returned to the people it was stolen from. The army doesn't even pay for what it's worth. They should no longer have control over sacred land that wasn't theirs in the first place. Give the land back to its rightful owners and leave. Your presents disrupts the residents of the area, disrupts the ecosystem, the land, everything. You shouldn't be there.



## Aida Ashouri

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The land is ecologically sensitive and is sacred to the original people there. The military is notorious for being environmentally destructive and such a fragile ecosystem should not be used for this purpose. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Waiʻanae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama ʻāina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were

conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please be respectful of the land and do not treat it as something like garbage to destroy. This land cannot be restored simply once its destroyed.

From: Aida Ashouri  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Aida Ashouri  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 10:58:11 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Aida Ashouri

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Los Angeles, California 90603

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

The land is ecologically sensitive and is sacred to the original people there. The military is notorious for being environmentally destructive and such a fragile ecosystem should not be used for this purpose.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a

comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources

that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Please be respectful of the land and do not treat it as something like garbage to destroy. This land cannot be restored simply once its destroyed.

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## Jake Atienza

Aloha. So my name is Jake Atienza. I'm based on Oahu. I'm an international student at UH. So I think it's safe to say, to assume that the military presence in Hawai'i, that the military is critically aware that the kanaka maoli and allies oppose military occupation of Hawai'i.

The very fact that this meeting or consultation is happening right now is evidence, as you can hear from these comments tonight, that kanaka maoli, Hawaiians, and allies oppose military presence in Hawai'i and also oppose the continuation of these leases, which are questionable in the first place. If you go outside, I think, a while ago -- they may still be there -- where you are right now at the golf course, you would have seen that there is a group from Waianae protesting right outside the golf course.

Both in the islands of Hawai'i and internationally, U.S. military has been detrimental and continues to damage communities, cultures, indigenous people, and local forms of governance. It has also resulted in displacement, both locally in the U.S.-occupied Hawai'i and internationally.

So to reiterate this point, I want to cite the following from the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. "Millions of people living in the war zones have also been displaced by war. The U.S. post-911 wars have forcibly displaced at least 37 million people" -- I repeat, 37 million people -- in and from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Philippines, Libya, and Syria. This number exceeds the total displaced by every war since 1900 except World War II."

So I say this to conclude, in addition to the previous comments tonight, the first priority is to return sovereignty to kanaka maoli, as it should be and as it should have always been. The second is to stop the U.S. military war machine that is -- has a presence worldwide. Mahalo.

## Carley Atkins

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the

cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our

communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



**From:** Carley Atkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 19:19  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Carley Atkins

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Carley Atkins

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Hilo, Hawaii 96720

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the

nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the

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In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the

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## Robert Austin

Nobody wants the Army or military in general here anymore. Your people destroy the lands, disrespect the local people, & act as if they are untouchable. You cause nothing but trouble here and for what? What do you give back? How do you help the people of Oahu during your invasion & settlement of native lands? Nothing. \$1 for leasing land is a fucking joke. If you are to stay then you pay fair market price for the lands, which all proceeds will go back to the island and actually helping the people here.

## Bronson Azama

‘Ano‘ai,  
I am providing a letter below which features my comments regarding the O‘ahu ATLR for Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku Training Area.  
Sincerely, Bronson Azama

**From:** [bronson.azama](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Comments regarding O'ahu ATLR  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 17:52:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments - Bronson Azama.pdf](#)

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‘Ano‘ai,

I am providing a letter below which features my comments regarding the O‘ahu ATLR for Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku Training Area.

Sincerely,  
Bronson Azama

To: O‘ahu ALTR EIS

From: Bronson Azama

### Comments Regarding O‘ahu Army Land Training Retainment EIS

‘Ano‘ai,

My name is Bronson Azama. I am a kama‘āina of the Ahupua‘a of He‘e‘eia and a Kānaka Maoli. I write to you today to comment on the U.S. Army’s O‘ahu Training Land Retention plans, specifically for the Kahuku Training Area, Mākua Military Reservation, and the Poamoho Training Area. The lands being sought for retainment are plagued with numerous cultural, environmental, historical, and legal issues which includes the illegal occupation and usage of Hawaiian Kingdom Government lands and Crown lands. As a Kānaka Maoli, someone who holds generational ties to these lands I state my opposition toward a process of retainment of these lands and would rather request that the U.S. Army begins a process to return said lands to their rightful owners who are Kuleana land claimants, the Crown, as well as the Hawaiian Kingdom. The return of these lands to their respective owners is imperative to remediating intergenerational traumas and resolving legal issues between Kānaka Maoli and the United States of America. On top of returning these lands, the Army and all other branches of the armed forces of the United States has a responsibility to remove Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and all other environmental hazards to a point where the land can be cultivated and habitable as it once was prior to the forcible taking of these lands by the United States.

Before offering further comment I would like to acknowledge that in a Kānaka Maoli worldview the environment and man are not separate but one and the same. Kānaka Maoli have a genealogical relationship to the land, the sea, and the sky, recognizing ourselves as descendants of Papahānaumoku [Earth Mother] and Wākea [Sky Father]. The environmental impacts are therefore intertwined with the social impacts on the native people of these lands. As a Kānaka maoli I can attest to this. The Army’s continued actions of imperialism and its illegal military occupation on the United States of America’s behalf have resulted in numerous social impacts upon our people. Kānaka maoli require proper stewardship of lands and waters to maintain a reciprocal relationship with the ‘āina of Hawai‘i. The lands and waters of Hawai‘i which are family, ought to be cared for as a grandmother or grandfather, in turn, we are nourished by our environment. Due to various issues that stem from colonialism and militarism by the United

States’, the physical, political, spiritual, and cultural landscape of Hawai‘i has been altered substantially. As military presence increases the displacement of natives continues, resulting in poor land management practices and economic woes for Kānaka Maoli. The military is the second largest industry next to tourism, another exploitative industry, and continues to bring with it new economic and environmental woes that negatively impact our communities.

The negative impacts on the environment which is inclusive of Kānaka Maoli started from the inception of the United States’ illegal participation in the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy and perceived end to the Hawaiian Kingdom. This participation began when the U.S. Marines were landed on January 16, 1893, under order by Minister John L. Stevens, who worked with the Committee of Safety and conspired against Queen Lili‘uokalani, which resulted in the illegal overthrow the following day. Such an act was declared an “act of war” by President Grover Cleveland. Fast forward to July 4, 1898, despite 98% of the population of Hawai‘i opposed to annexation the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution known as the Newlands Resolution, which is not a treaty, and illegally annexed Hawai‘i. The effects of this illegal act of war and a fraudulent annexation have resulted in the displacement of native communities and the illegal usage and occupation of Hawaiian government and Crown lands by the United States. This resulted in the inability to determine for ourselves our own future and destiny as well as future use of our own lands resulting in various ecological and cultural problems. Military usage has resulted in land degradation, lands once cultivated for food are now plagued with UXOs, we face resource depletion via the military’s extreme water usage (not to mention further contamination of the Pearl Harbor Aquifer by Red Hill Fuel Tanks), desecration of cultural sites, and various environmental issues such as habitat destruction, extinction of native wildlife and fauna, drought-stricken areas (due to habitat destruction, stream diversion, and the removal of natives and our inability to implement our agricultural practices and land management systems), and houselessness for Kānaka Maoli.

One hundred years after the U.S. Marines under orders from Minister John L. Stevens usurped our Monarch and legal government [Hawaiian Kingdom] President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-150 also known as the “Apology Resolution” which states in one of its Whereas clauses,

“Whereas the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum;”

This Whereas clause contradicts claims that the United States has made to the United Nations to justify its illegal occupation. Such claims argue that the Statehood Act and the vote for Statehood serve as a referendum, which resulted in the removal of Hawai‘i from the United Nations’ list of Non-Self Governing Territories in 1959 through Resolution 1469. Not to mention that Statehood included the fulfillment of a “sacred trust” obligation to promote the well-being of those inhabitants, under the U.N. Charter, Chapter XI, Article 73e, which states:

“Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of selfgovernment recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount, and accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security established by the present Charter, the well-being of the inhabitants of these territories, and, to this end: a. to ensure, with due respect for the culture of the peoples concerned, their political, economic, social, and educational advancement, their just treatment, and their protection against abuses.”

Atop of basing their occupation upon a lie of referendum, in knowing the impacts of militarization of our islands our “sacred trust” has clearly been violated. Thus adding yet another layer of illegality upon the foundational lie of annexation. There are many layers to the illegalities, such illegalities can be better articulated by more seasoned legal experts around the existence of the Hawaiian Kingdom. One such legal expert includes Dr. Alfred-Maurice de Zayas who on behalf of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner published a memorandum in 2018 acknowledging Hawai‘i as an,

“...the lawful political status of the Hawaiian Islands is that of a sovereign nation-state in continuity; but a nation-state that is under a strange form of occupation by the United States resulting from an illegal military occupation and a fraudulent annexation.”

The layers upon layers of illegalities and absolute lies that plague the United States and subsequently the State of Hawai‘i’s title over what is now termed “Public Lands” or “Ceded

lands” lands of which are better referred to as “Seized lands”, needs to be addressed. These illegalities include the Hawaiian Kingdom Government and Crown lands, and their leasing by the State of Hawai‘i to the Army and all other branches of the United States military for military usage. To my knowledge the lands in question for these bases are for the most part Hawaiian Kingdom Government lands, however, other key military installations on O‘ahu sit atop Crown Lands. This includes to my knowledge, Lualualei, Schofield Barracks, Bellows Air Force Station, and the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i, therefore, I would like to request that all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States be further investigated for stealing and using the personal property of the Crown and Kuleana Landowners. Crown lands are lands set aside for the ali‘i and the Mo‘ī. To hold the Crown lands and Kuleana Lands without consent would be an act of stealing private lands, which is an act some Americans interpret as akin to a communist country. Until the legal issues of ownership can be resolved, the Army should not seek to retain these lands, for such actions would be war crimes and an act of piracy by the United States of America.

The United States and its armed forces have an opportunity to be honorable, something our people have yet to witness. An honorable action would be to return rather than retain these lands. Returning these lands to the indigenous people the Kānaka Maoli and starting a process to decolonize Hawai‘i and restore the Hawaiian Kingdom to comply with International and United States national laws. Such honorable actions and solutions do not end there as these lands will require the removal of UXOs, and all other environmental hazards for the health and well-being of the environment which in turn betters the living conditions of the people of Hawai‘i.

Let the violence upon our grandmother Earth stop, let the violence imposed upon our people end, and let us rather work together to restore our ‘āina and our aupuni.

Aloha nō,  
Bronson Azama

## Bronson Azama

Ano ae. My name is Bronson Azama. I'm a kanaka to the Ahupua'a He'eia and akanaka maoli. I would like to state that when it comes to the alternatives that were proposed, you know, the one I would like wasn't on there, and that's rather than land retainment, land returned to the Hawaiian Kingdom, to the crown, and to kuleana landowners, the rightful owners of these lands. Because currently, the United States, as we have stated time and time again, has no legal authority of these lands. So even this process is sort of fraudulent in a way, where we should be respected in a nation-to-nation relationship, not in this sort of American process is. Going into the illegalities that started from the illegal participation by United States Marines in the overthrow and usurping of our queen and then followed by a fraudulent annexation that was a joint resolution, didn't go through the two-thirds ratification process. And even in case law, you know, in a joint resolution, you need an agreement between two parties. Well, the Republic of Hawai'i wasn't the legal authority to convey Hawai'i to the United States. And following that, in World War II, which is why this is kind of interesting, in World War II Hawai'i was added to the list, the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories. And in 1959, the Resolution 1469, the United States, to justify its illegal occupation, considered the Statehood Act in a referendum, which is contradicting, because when you look at Public Law 103-150 in the Apology Resolution in one of its Whereas clauses, it states, "Whereas the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people over their national lands to the United States either through their monarchy or through plebiscite or referendum." And just as recent as three years ago, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner published a memorandum in 2018 stating in regards to the Hawaiian Kingdom's current political status as a "nation state in continuity". And with that being said, it's very telling that the United States is trying to really hold on a grip, and a stronger grip, of military power on our islands as there is question on the legalities in the international realm.... Yes. So to wrap up, you know, the United States has an opportunity now, because history is ongoing. You have an opportunity to be honorable, something we have yet to see and something we have yet to witness. So that being said, I would ask that the armed forces stop being used as pirates of the Pacific, and we really return these lands back to the people, back to the Kingdom, back to the crown, and back to the kuleana landowners and all owners with a loyal title. With that being said, (speaking Hawaiian). Mahalo.

Miles B

To whom it may concern I am writing to inform you of my support for the demilitarisation and decolonisation of the land of Hawai'i. The treatment of Hawaiian peoples and land over the last 123 years by the US government and Military is inexcusable, exploitative and disgusting and needs to end immediately.

---

**From:** Miles B [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 1:49  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Demilitarise Hawai'i

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The treatment of Hawaiian peoples and land over the last 123 years by the US government and Military is inexcusable, exploitative and disgusting and needs to end immediately.

## adnan b

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... this is Native land! Indigenous peoples are the only rightful stewards of this land and the continued decimation of their sovereignty is exactly the reason for climate change. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘ānae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘ānae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘ānae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: [adnan b](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - adnan b  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 18:56:18 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: adnan b

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: sacramento, California 95822

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

this is Native land! Indigenous peels are the only rightful stewards of this land and the continued decimation of their sovereignty is exactly the reason for climate change.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The

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## Mary Tuti Baker

Aloha mai kakou. Can you hear me all right? Okay. My name is Mary Tuti Baker, and I grew up in Kailua and Waimanalo. My father served proudly in World War II as a Marine Corps pilot. He fell in love with my mother and her 'aina and stayed in Hawai'i. I want us all to remember that when land in Hawai'i is used for military training, it means that 'aina is being used by the occupying government to train to kill other black, brown, and indigenous people around the world. I want you to remember that despite deeply inadequate public engagement processes like this one, the U.S. military disregards indigenous people and their land everywhere it goes, from Hawai'i to Okinawa to Guam to around the world. These will always be my deepest objections to the military in occupied Hawai'i, and the impacts of that cannot be measured by -- in any EIS. It's frustrating because this EIS is a performance. It reinforces the idea that this is the Army's decision, and it is not -- or it should not be. The Army is the lessee, and these lands are held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the public. That means the people, and specifically Hawaiians, should get to decide what is being done with that land and whether it serves us. How does ravaging 'aina for war serve trust beneficiaries? It does not. Instead, it further entrenches us in an unhealthy dependence on the U.S. military, the largest greenhouse gas emitter on this warming planet. A complete and honest environmental impact statement would take that dependence into account. It might also examine the way military personnel skew our housing market and price local families out of Hawai'i. The reality that the military already controls nearly a quarter of all the land on Oahu, the undeniable fact that obscene levels of military spending make it impossible to fund critical social programs like education and health care. Even though the Army has had this land for 65 years, you are not and never were entitled to it. Retention should not be the starting point for this EIS process. We want the military to return the land as it was prior to military occupation. Mahalo nui.

## Sarah Baker

Get off their island, it was a wrongful lease and the land should be restored to the public immediately. And pay them an actual amount for the time you were there. \$1 an acre? From the military that spends 425 billion dollars more than any other military? That's just disgusting that you'd screw your own country over that hard. If you care about your country feed the economy. Leave Hawaii alone.

## Christina Balderas

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua Kahuku Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The military has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Adele Balderston

Aloha,

My name is Adele Balderston, I am a settler, raised here on O'ahu between Kailua and Kāne'ohe and I oppose the extension of this lease and the ongoing US Military occupation of Hawai'i. I used to catch the bus to school across the street from the Marine Base where, as an adolescent, I experienced catcalls, intimidation, abuse and even assault from service members on the street or riding the bus almost daily.

For me, this experience has become emblematic of the US Military's treatment of Hawai'i and its people. The US Armed Forces have never been good stewards of this 'āina: consider the irrevocable damage wrought by the US Navy on Kaho'olawe that rendered the island uninhabitable, the unexploded ordnance that poses ongoing health and safety risks to residents of every island, and the 80-year-old fuel tanks in Red Hill that threaten one of O'ahu's major sources of drinking water.

28,000 Kanaka Maoli are currently on the waitlist for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and 15,000 Hawai'i residents are currently houseless with thousands more at risk of losing their homes, while the state struggles to distribute rental assistance and process unemployment claims filed over a year ago. With so many kanaka 'ōiwi priced out of their homes everyday, it would be unconscionable for the Army to retain control of a single one of the 6,300 acres "leased" against the people's will for an insulting \$1 tithe.

Hasn't the US Military abused this place enough? The Army does not know the meaning of Aloha 'Āina, and their continued occupation of this land is a threat to Hawai'i's natural and cultural environment. Give these public lands back to Hawai'i's people.

Mahalo,  
Adele Balderston

## May Balino-Sing

Aloha. My name is May Balino Sing, I am calling to oppose extending military lease in Makua, Wahiawa, and Kahuku. Mahalo Nui

## Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The military have a destructive footprint on stolen land. Increased militarism and violence to people and place must end. Hawaiians deserve their land back and we collectively deserve a state without military presence. We need to secure these lands for true security- housing, food, and precious resources. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons

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From: Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:58:04 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Makiki, Hawaii 96822

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE....

The military have a destructive footprint on stolen land. Increased militarism and violence to people and place must end. Hawaiians deserve their land back and we collectively deserve a state without military presence. We need to secure these lands for true security-housing, food, and precious resources.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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## Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

Okay. Aloha. My name is Lauren Bastellesteros-Watanabe. I am a resident of Makiki, Oahu. I am third-generation working class Mexican-American, and I'm a mother of a young daughter. I'm also an artist and a community organizer of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i and here in solidarity to oppose the lease extension.

And I would just like to actually just offer a poem, because I think there has -- there has been a lot of incredible testimony, and I best express myself this way, because I think this is about something much larger that you are hearing than just about a lease. So, yeah.

We are being buried by chaos as we speak, and these traveled foreign seas centuries ago. Not every legacy is made the same. You, me, him, her, they, them, all have a story to tell. Life is a twisted game when you're a descendant of a motherland conquered by forced entry, stripped of her dignity to profit another. She was maintained in the name of victory without consent. On that day, goddesses wailed. The winds howled as my mothers were forced to bow on their hands and knees, birth unwanted seeds on trails of tears, silenced by our forefathers that labeled her his property. But through their cries, they prophesied. False kings create false gods to hide. They keep us divided, fighting a hell within ourselves. The truth is it's just a matter of time until we rise again. This is where my story begins. We were raised to put one hand over our heart every day, thoroughbred patriots pledging our allegiance away to a country that internally feeds off of a you versus me mentality. But internationally, we are supposed to be devoted to a one nation under God identity, never doubted, an unquestionable quest to exert our power through a militarized industrial complex that doesn't distinguish between child and terrorist bombing schools, gunning down villages of civilians like you and me all in the name of security. Does that make any sense? Nothing we do changes the pains of the past, but in this moment, we are confronting it like the rising seeds, doing our best, each in our own way, to uproot those weeds suffocating us all.

So with my testimony, I just wanted to offer a -- expand on what has been said today, that we are also in this code red for humanity to take action on climate change and to protect our natural resources. And so having the further violence and desecration and treating land and people as disposable for military training is -- is not acceptable, never was, and it has no place anymore.

So I hope you really hear this call, that it needs to end. And so on that, I will -- I will just leave. I think there's been incredible testimony tonight. So I strongly oppose. Thank you.

## Chelsea Barbee

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority



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From: Chelsea Barbee  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Chelsea Barbee  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 12:39:41 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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MY NAME IS: Chelsea Barbee

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I AM: A resident of O‘ahu

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Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become



greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the

study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

I am a military spouse and I am continuously disgusted in the military's hand in harming native lands. Do better.

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Rubi Baricuatro

Please stop U.S. military occupation of Hawaiian land.

Cooper Barnard-Mayers

Good morning,

I'm emailing today to oppose the military occupation on native Hawaiian soil, and request that the United States Military lease not be renewed in 2029. We want to return that land to the native Hawaiian community and peoples.

Thank you, Cooper Barnard-Mayers

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**From:** Cooper Barnard-Mayers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:41  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Occupation of Hawaii

Good morning,

I'm emailing today to oppose the military occupation on native Hawaiian soil, and request that the United States Military lease not be renewed in 2029. We want to return that land to the native Hawaiian community and peoples.

Thank you,  
Cooper Barnard-Mayers

A resident's comment on the EIS concerning the re-leasing of 30,000 acres of land currently used by the US military in the State of Hawai'i.

I live in Aiea, and I am opposed to the re-leasing of any land to the US military for training purposes. There are many annoyances living with such a large troop presence on an densely populated island. My community seems to be in the flight path of helicopters flying between Wheeler Airfield and Camp Smith or Kaneohe MCB. Often their vibrations disturb residents before 6 am and after 9 pm. I can hear and feel the explosion of live fire from Makua. The vibrations created two to four helicopters that fly across the most populated urban core of the State on their way west to Barber's Point, and then back again, at least three times a day is predictable. It's like we already live in a war zone.

However, other reasons besides losing some sleep and worry about helicopter crashes are more important. Dust containing depleted uranium oxide from the live fire occurring at several sites has been a concern for a long time. A study done by the UH Cancer Center and Department of Health back in 2001 to 2005 found that melanoma, breast and bladder cancer had a higher occurrence in east and west Hawai'i island than the state average, pointing to the studied population's proximity to Pohakuloa Training Area. There is also the possibility of wildfire, which has occurred as a result of live fire. A 2018 draft of the State of Hawai'i Hazard Mitigation Plan shows that communities at risk of wildfires include all the military training areas on Oahu.

The citizens of this state have seen what the military has done to the land and the weak attempts to mitigate the damage done due to the extreme costs. A 1999 report prepared by the Hawai'i Department of Health to the 12th State Legislature cites where munitions are stored, arsenic, or polychlorinated biphenyls, trichloroethylene and dioxin were found at Kahuku training area, Pohakuloa, Aliamanu Military Reservation and even the drinking water at Schofield Barracks. Taxpayers have had to clean up unexploded ordinance at Kaho'olawe and the jet flume under Hickam AFB. There is also the resistance by the Navy to ensure the tanks under Red Hill will not contaminate our main source of drinking water.

The military in Hawai'i should draw down its presence in Hawai'i to alleviate the strain it puts on the residents and environment. In addition, a more peaceful stance in the eye of the world would do better to reduce tension with our adversaries in the Pacific than trying to flex muscle. Thus I am opposed to allowing the US military continue to train here. Go somewhere else.

Sincerely,

Andrea Barnes  
August 19, 2021

## Avrey Baron

Since the mid 1890s when the U.S. illegally annexed the island chain known as Hawai'i, the islands have lost their ability to decide how they are governed, were forced to commercialize their culture, and experienced rising costs of living and devastating changes to their native flora and fauna including introductions and extinctions. The native Hawaiians that have lived on these islands for centuries before U.S. annexation are finding it harder to afford to stay in their families homes while sharing it with vacationers that don't respect native Hawaiian culture or spirituality, especially in the context of the land. It is essential that we, as privileged Americans, start to right the wrongs of the past. This should start with the right to self-determination and removal of American army forces on the islands. Army occupation on any land is destructive. These forces on sacred lands is especially troublesome and should be stopped as soon as possible. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on Mākuā, Wahiawā, and Kahuku. These military occupations are disruptive to the native people's, plants, and other animals and frequently destroy sacred lands to which the peoples' spirituality is connected. The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since the mid 1960s and when the leases expire in 2029, they should not be renewed and the land should be returned to the people.

## Dylan Barr

Give Makua Valley back to the Hawaiian people PLEASE! End military use of this beautiful valley that could be used for farming and housing for native Hawaiians, as it previously had been for hundreds of years.

Isabella Batts

US Army,  
One hundred and twenty three years ago, the Kingdom of Hawaii was colonized. The military still occupies space. There is military presence at the front of the 'Lolani Palace. The sacred Wahi Pana land must be returned to the people of Hawaii. Please return the land and discontinue colonizer military trainings.  
Thank you.

---

**From:** Isabella Batts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 18:56  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Restoration and Returning of Hawaii

US Army,  
  
One hundred and twenty three years ago, the Kingdom of Hawaii was colonized. The military still occupies space. There is military presence at the front of the 'Lolani Palace. The sacred Wahi Pana land must be returned to the people of Hawaii. Please return the land and discontinue colonizer military trainings.  
  
Thank you.

## Victoria Bayang

I am strongly opposed to the expansion of these military leases. An extension of these leases could allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native hawaiian plants and animals, and continuously disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongful leases these lands for such a low price. When this lease expires, it should be immediately restored to the public.

## Anne Bayne

I oppose the renewal of Hawaiian territory for military purposes.



Jim Bearden

30,000 acres of Hawaii state land leased by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands, no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers. Hawai'i should be known as an area of peace and dialogue, using the Hawaiian technique of "ho'oponopono" — rather than as a base for projecting the U.S.propensity for killing over using diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries. A first step would be reducing the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii by the State of Hawai'i refusing to re-lease 30,000 acres currently used by the U.S. military. Ultimately disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue, so why are we spending trillions on weapons that ultimately do not solve the situation? In the words of a song I wrote many years ago ("Aloha to Hawai'i"), when I had to leave Hawai'i, "How can one hand wish Aloha, while the other holds a gun?"  
Jim Bearden=====Sky Pilot

Music/Photography/Softwaremailto:j

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\$=====

From: Jim Bearden  
To: DLNR.LD.Land; DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Military should return Hawaii lands  
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:58:21 AM

30,000 acres of Hawaii state land leased by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands, no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers. Hawai'i should be known as an area of peace and dialogue, using the Hawaiian technique of "ho'oponopono" — rather than as a base for projecting the U.S. propensity for killing over using diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries. A first step would be reducing the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii by the State of Hawai'i refusing to re-lease 30,000 acres currently used by the U.S. military. Ultimately disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue, so why are we spending trillions on weapons that ultimately do not solve the situation? In the words of a song I wrote many years ago ("Aloha to Hawai'i"), when I had to leave Hawai'i, "How can one hand wish Aloha, while the other holds a gun?"

Jim Bearden=====

Sky Pilot Music/Photography/Software

[REDACTED]

Virginia Beck

Aloha. I am opposed to renewing the military leases. Too much land is being used by the military and I oppose the bombing of Makua and Pohakuloa.  
Virginia Beck [REDACTED]

**From:** [Virginia Beck](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Testimony Opposed to Military Lease Renewals  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:53:38 AM

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Aloha. I am opposed to renewing the military leases. Too much land is being used by the military and I oppose the bombing of Makua and Pohakuloa.

Virginia Beck  
[REDACTED]

## Shelby Becker

I do not support military occupation and training on Hawaiian lands. Colonialism has no place on these sacred lands that America stole so long ago.

So much of the culture has already been stripped down and they deserve to cultivate their land without the threat of American violence.

## Ad Beekmeijer

Dear Sir / Madam,

I strongly advise you to refuse a re-lease to the military. Just let nature take over the land and make it a national park. That will boost the tourism enormously. And remember peace is better than war.

best regards

Ad Beekmeijer Amsterdam The Netherlands

**From:** [Ad Beekmeijer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.L.D.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re-lease land to the military  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 2:39:39 AM

---

Dear Sir / Madam,

I strongly advise you to refuse a re-lease to the military.

Just let nature take over the land and make it a national park.

That will boost the tourism enormously.

And remember peace is better than war.

best regards

Ad Beekmeijer

Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Kelly Behan

Hawai'i is and has been illegally occupied since around 1893 after the United States overthrew the Kingdom of Hawai'i, it's about time the land is given back to its rightful owners. The land is sacred to its people and it's appalling to see it disrespected the way it is by people who don't belong there.

## Melanie Bellomo

I am opposed to the renewal of this lease. We must cease the destruction of the land and water of Hawaii in the name of military endeavors.

## Annie Ellen Benavidez

"Aloha. My name is Annie Ellen Benavidez and I'm a resident of Puna. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals. And continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases when the lease is expiring 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you. "

Kae Bender

Hi. I just read that Hawai'i leases 30,000 acres of State Lands to the US military for a mere \$1. That is state robbery and should not be tolerated by the citizens of Hawai'i or the State of Hawai'i Department of Land Resources.

I would urge you to thoroughly review these leases and at a minimum revise the renewal terms, or even terminate the contracts.

Like so many Native Nations, the indigenous people of Hawai'i were treated poorly for extended periods by the US, and even as a state, Hawai'i deserves more autonomy in its choices of how to use its land.

For too long, the US has relied on its military presence rather than leading the world with diplomacy and humanitarian politics. At this time of international climate crisis, it is time to rethink our priorities.

Kae Bender Lancaster CA 93536

**From:** [Kae LivingCommonUnity](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Military land leases  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:53:07 AM

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Hi. I just read that Hawai'i leases 30,000 acres of State Lands to the US military for a mere \$1. That is state robbery and should not be tolerated by the citizens of Hawai'i or the State of Hawai'i Department of Land Resources.

I would urge you to thoroughly review these leases and at a minimum revise the renewal terms, or even terminate the contracts.

Like so many Native Nations, the indigenous people of Hawai'i were treated poorly for extended periods by the US, and even as a state, Hawai'i deserves more autonomy in its choices of how to use its land.

For too long, the US has relied on its military presence rather than leading the world with diplomacy and humanitarian politics. At this time of international climate crisis, it is time to rethink our priorities.

Kae Bender  
Lancaster CA 93536

Polly Bentley

Please do not allow the military to use land for training and other purposes any longer. This is surely a great moment to change the trajectory of US ways of dealing with other countries. P. Bentley  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Polly Bentley](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.L.D.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hawai'i military re-leasing  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 12:06:58 PM

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Please do not allow the military to use land for training and other purposes any longer. This is surely a great moment to change the trajectory of US ways of dealing with other countries. P. Bentley

Sent from my iPad

## Halani Berard

First I must clarify my position about your presence in Hawai'i. I am proud that you have a home here for training our military to be ready for any threat to the security of our homeland, the United States of America. There are cultural practices, however, that must be respected and adhered to in order to coexist with aloha and ho'ihi, (love and respect).

First, you must respect our belief that our 'aina (land) is our mother. We believe wholeheartedly that if we take good care of her she will in turn take good care of us. We love her and we care for her. When you use bombs either from the air or planted on the land as part of your training, you are hurting the very core of our being. You must do that type of training elsewhere. You severely injured the core of our being by your insensitive and cruel injuries to Kaho'olawe. We negotiated for you to clean up the live ordinances that you left behind. To this very day you say you cannot guarantee that the island will be safe because you cannot guarantee ridding the island of every live ordinance. You left the island leaving Hawaiians with an island that is inhabitable. This island is being held in trust until such time as a Hawaiian Nation is recognized. What possible good is that? This is only a small part of the plight of correcting the many injustices of the past for the Native Hawaiian people of Hawai'i.

Paying your fair share for the use of our land must be corrected. Presently you pay \$1.00 (one dollar) per year. Most of the land belong to the Native Hawaiian people who struggle at the bottom of the list regarding health, education, unemployment, incarceration and more. I beg you to care about the many injustices of the past and start now to be fair and righteous in your dealings that directly affect the Native Hawaiian people. Fair market value is all we ask for the use of our lands. I trust that you will empathize with our struggle for justice and righteousness.

May God bless our nation and our troops! Kupuna Halani Berard Kailua Kona, Hawai'i

**From:** [halanikai@aim.com](mailto:halanikai@aim.com)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] My concerns regarding the military's presence in Hawai'i.  
**Date:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 16:26:27 PM

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

First I must clarify my position about your presence in Hawai'i. I am proud that you have a home here for training our military to be ready for any threat to the security of our homeland, the United States of America. There are cultural practices, however, that must be respected and adhered to in order to coexist with aloha and ho'ihi, (love and respect). First, you must respect our belief that our 'aina (land) is our mother. We believe wholeheartedly that if we take good care of her she will in turn take good care of us. We love her and we care for her. When you use bombs either from the air or planted on the land as part of your training, you are hurting the very core of our being. You must do that type of training elsewhere. You severely injured the core of our being by your insensitive and cruel injuries to Kaho'olawe. We negotiated for you to clean up the live ordinances that you left behind. To this very day you say you cannot guarantee that the island will be safe because you cannot guarantee ridding the island of every live ordinance. You left the island leaving Hawaiians with an island that is inhabitable. This island is being held in trust until such time as a Hawaiian Nation is recognized. What possible good is that? This is only a small part of the plight of correcting the many injustices of the past for the Native Hawaiian people of Hawai'i. Paying your fair share for the use of our land must be corrected. Presently you pay \$1.00 (one dollar) per year. Most of the land belong to the Native Hawaiian people who struggle at the bottom of the list regarding health, education, unemployment, incarceration and more. I beg you to care about the many injustices of the past and start now to be fair and righteous in your dealings that directly affect the Native Hawaiian people. Fair market value is all we ask for the use of our lands.

I trust that you will empathize with our struggle for justice and righteousness.

May God bless our nation and our troops!

Kupuna Halani Berard

Kailua Kona, Hawai'i

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS < Caution-<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/aol-news-email-weather-video/id646100661> >



## Jessica Bidon

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Lauren Biglow

Aloha. Me llamo Lauren y resido en California. Me opongo fuertemente a la extensión de los arrendamientos militares en las tierras de Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. La extensión de los arrendamientos permitiría al ejército seguir dañando los recursos naturales de la zona, destruir los hábitats de la flora y la fauna endémicas hawaianas, y seguir impactando la vida de la comunidad local. El ejército ha arrendado la tierra de manera injusta desde el estado por \$1 desde el año 1964. Cuando termine el arrendamiento en 2029, la tierra se debe devolver al pueblo. Mahalo.

[Aloha. My name is Lauren and I live in California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases in the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. The extension of the leases would allow the military to continue damaging the area's natural resources, destroy the habitats of endemic Hawaiian flora and fauna, and continue to impact the life of the local community. The military has unfairly leased the land from the state for \$ 1 since 1964. When the lease ends in 2029, the land must be returned to the town. Mahalo.]

## Lauren Biglow

Aloha. My name is Lauren and I am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo.

**From:** [Lauren Biglow](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposing 2029 Lease Renewal  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 18:21:59 PM

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Aloha. My name is Lauren and I am a resident of California.

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Mahalo.

**From:** [Lauren Biglow](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No se debe renovar el arrendamiento en 2029  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 18:27:31 PM

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Aloha. Me llamo Lauren y resido en California. Me opongo fuertemente a la extensión de los arrendamientos militares en las tierras de Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

La extensión de los arrendamientos permitiría al ejército seguir dañando los recursos naturales de la zona, destruir los hábitats de la flora y la fauna endémicas hawaianas, y seguir impactando la vida de la comunidad local.

El ejército ha arrendado la tierra de manera injusta desde el estado por \$1 desde el año 1964. Cuando termine el arrendamiento en 2029, la tierra se debe devolver al pueblo.

Mahalo.

## Alex Bishop

Aloha,

My name is Alex Bishop and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources, natural habitats of native, threatened species, and homelands of local communities, specifically indigenous peoples residing on these lands.

The U.S. army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

I implore you to research the amount of damage U.S. colonization/military occupation has caused regarding endemic bird species as well. 95 out of 142 bird species (found nowhere else in the world) have become extinct due to the carelessness of U.S. occupation.

Please consider the future and health of our ecosystems and communities when making these decisions.

Sincerely, Alex Bishop

**From:** Alexandria Bishop [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 5:45  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Urgent Request Regarding Hawaii

Aloha,

My name is Alex Bishop and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources, natural habitats of native, threatened species, and homelands of local communities, specifically indigenous peoples residing on these lands.

The U.S. army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

I implore you to research the amount of damage U.S. colonization/military occupation has caused regarding endemic bird species as well. 95 out of 142 bird species (found nowhere else in the world) have become extinct due to the carelessness of U.S. occupation.

Please consider the future and health of our ecosystems and communities when making these decisions.

Sincerely,  
Alex Bishop

Dan Bissell

Please give this land back to the people of Oahu. The military presence is overwhelming at times. This land needs to be used to for preservation of our watershed (Particularly in the area surrounding Poamoho), and used for its people. Not military presence.

Zoe Black

Hi my name is Zoe Black, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of mākuā, Kauku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

Thank you,

**From:** [Zoe Black](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army lease on Hawaiian lands  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:23:37 AM

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Hi my name is Zoe Black, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of mākuā, Kauku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

Thank you,

## Patricia Blair

There should be no more releasing of Hawaii lands for military destruction. I looked at beautiful Makua, Waimanalo, Kahuku, Pohakuloa and thought there is absolutely no justification for its destruction. The military does not resolve disputes as we've seen in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, etc. in my life time. The military only destroys human life and the environment. More weapons do not make Americans safer! Learning to respect and living together makes us safer! Disputes between countries are best settled by sincere dialogue, diplomacy. Thank you. Patricia Blair, Kailua, Hi. [REDACTED] Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] The military should return Hawaii lands now.  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 9:49:11 AM

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There should be no more releasing of Hawaii lands for military destruction. I looked at beautiful Makua, Waimanalo, Kahuku, Pohakuloa and thought there is absolutely no justification for its destruction. The military does not resolve disputes as we've seen in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, etc. in my life time. The military only destroys human life and the environment. More weapons do not make Americans safer! Learning to respect and living together makes us safer! Disputes between countries are best settled by sincere dialogue, diplomacy. Thank you. Patricia Blair, Kailua, Hi. 888-6393  
Sent from my iPad

August 9, 2021

The State of Hawaii should  
not re-lease Hawaii State lands  
to the US military for further  
training. Enough damage has been  
done over the years.

Military actions only substantiate  
hostilities between countries,  
causing needless human deaths  
particularly civilians and children.  
Disputes with countries are best  
resolved not by military  
actions but by dialogue,  
diplomacy.

Hawaii should encourage  
the Hawaiian technique  
of 'ho'oponopono, not provide

land for the US military's  
killing machines that have  
not made our citizens safer.

Thank you for recognizing  
your duty, obligation to  
preserve the Aina - by  
saying NO to land leases  
to the military.

Patricia Blair  
Kailua  
[redacted]



Ms. Patricia Blair

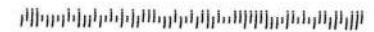
HONOLULU HI 967

10 AUG 2021 PM 1 L



Oahu ATLR EIS comments  
PO Box 3444 DLNR  
Honolulu,  
HI 96801-3444

96801-344444



Patricia Blair

[Subject: No renewal of leased Hawaiian land to the military. Let's try diplomacy instead of aggressive destruction toward others.]  
Patricia Blair, Kailua  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No renewal of leased Hawaiian land to the military. Let's try diplomacy instead of aggressive destruction toward others.  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 9:38:51 AM

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Patricia Blair, Kailua

Sent from my iPad



## Patricia Blair

Time to end the leasing of Hawaii's land for harmful military training. Clean up the mess and return the land to the Hawaiian people. Try diplomacy with other countries.

**From:** [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Time to end the leasing of Hawaii's land for harmful military training. Clean up the mess and return the land to the Hawaiian people. Try diplomacy with other countries.  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 20:45:23 PM

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Patricia Blair, Kailua

Sent from my iPad

## Samantha Blalock

Aloha, my name is Samantha and I am a resident from New York. I am absolutely opposed to the extension of military leases on the islands of Mākau, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

Extension of lease will continue to exploit natural resources further destroying the natural habitat of Hawaiian plants and animals and disrupting the local communities. This land should be restored to the public.

## Alyssa Bland

Aloha. My name is Alyssa and I am from California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow military to further damage the natural and native resources to this area, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. The army has forcefully taken land and recourse away from Hawaiians. When the leases expire, these lands should be immediately replaced to the public hands of indigenous Hawaiians.

## Lauren Harmony Blissett

Aloha. My name is Lauren Harmony Akama Blissett. I was born and raised in Kaneohe on the island of Oahu. My phone numbers XXX-XXX-XXXX and my email is XXXXX.

Firstly, I would like to make clear that I very strongly opposed military's lease of public lands to uses training. The fact that they only pay \$1 for the privilege is beyond insulting and extremely unfair. I personally witnessed and often heard the destruction being caused to the land.

In regards to your environmental impact survey, I cannot see how the expensive and prolonged use of live ammunition on and against the land could ever be considered not harmful. However, I hope that whoever is conducting this survey will act with honesty and integrity and will genuinely consider the negative impacts on our land and our wildlife and how that in turn impacts our surrounding communities. And whether it is right that they should be allowed to continue for decades more. Please can you ensure that this environmental impact study thoroughly evaluates the military's contamination of these sites during the course of their 65 year lease.

Specifically, whether or not they are littering the land with unexploded devices which could endanger human lives for many years to come. Whether any of their ammunition or practices is poisons the land with depleted uranium, which will be very hazardous to the public and wildlife. How the noise pollution negatively impacts communities and surrounding areas.

How the use of these lands impacts Native Hawaiian wildlife flora and fauna, particularly those that are endangered and how their extinction would be lost, not only to the people of Hawaii, but to the public in general.

Whether any pollution from the military use of these lands has gotten into and contaminated the water supply and how that might be affecting people.

How the physical impact of bombing might be destabilizing land and infrastructure in both immediate and surrounding areas.

How the military uses these lands for training deprives Native Hawaiians of their rights to the resources found on these lands. Particularly for hunting gathering and providing and also for spiritual and cultural practices. Also how those rights might still be effective for years after the lease is terminated because the environmental impact. The military's practices have on these lands. Also how the continued bombing and destruction of these lands physically and emotionally impacts the well being of Native Hawaiian to Honor this land and would otherwise be using it in ways that would directly benefit and uplift our communities and future generations. And finally, the extent of loss and irreparable damage being caused by the military base in these lands and the way they are using them. Thank you for listening to my testimony and please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Mahalo

## Lauren Blissett

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... I strongly believe the Military's lease of these lands to use as training grounds is NOT in the interest of the Hawaiian people and is severely detrimental to both our well being and livelihoods, and those of our future generations. Furthermore, it is detrimental to the well being of the land itself and all other occupants and future occupants of it, including the native flora, fauna and wildlife, much of which is endangered. This is unethical. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust

duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākuā Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āin a for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. In terms of an Environmental Impact Survey, I don't see how the extensive and prolonged use of live ammunition on and against the land could ever be considered not harmful. Many native Hawaiian species of plants, insects and birds are endangered (not to mention exclusive to these islands) and I cannot see how a study like this could possibly conclude that bombs, bullets and debris from military training exercises does NOT

negatively impact the environment of not only these lands, but the surrounding areas. Furthermore, I am extremely saddened -and out right disgusted- that the military would be allowed to lease these lands for \$1 for 65 years. These are lands that were wrongfully acquired to begin with. For at least the last 60 years they have been used in a way that does not benefit the Hawaiian people, nor honor the place itself. In fact, the continued leasing of these lands to the military for training practice actively hinders native Hawaiians because it excludes us from having any say in how that land is cared for and utilized. Depending on where the parcels are, what infrastructure surrounds them and what state of contamination they have been left in by the military, these lands could be reallocated and used for conservation, agriculture and homes for Hawaiian people who have been deprived of their rightful inheritance because of the United States’ illegal seizure of these islands. It is quite simply farcical, let alone highly insulting, that the United States Military should continue to be allowed to rent this land... especially for the mind boggling fee of just \$1!!! I, as a native Hawaiian with 'only' 40% pure Hawaiian blood, do not even qualify for Hawaiian homelands. Even so, I am not being offered even half an acre to lease for \$1 per month, let alone tens of thousands of acres for \$1 for 65 years!!! There are hundreds of thousands of others like me, plus tens of thousands more who are still on the wait list for land. The Military has no entitlement whatsoever to that land, it is not caring for that land, its needs should not be prioritized over those of the Hawaiian people and in no way should that land be leased to any one except Native Hawaiians, for the betterment of the land of Hawai‘i and its Native Hawaiian people- and certainly not for the menial (and quite frankly offensive) fee of ONE DOLLAR! I hope your EIS can honestly evaluate the many, many negative impacts this current arrangement has on our land and rightfully conclude what is blatantly obvious- that the military lease should NOT be renewed on any of these lands.

**From:** Lauren Blissett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 13:14  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Lauren Blissett

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Lauren Blissett

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Hilo 96720

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

I strongly believe the Military's lease of these lands to use as training grounds is NOT in the interest of the Hawaiian people and is severely detrimental to both our well being and livelihoods, and those of our future generations. Furthermore, it is detrimental to the well being of the land itself and all other occupants and future occupants of it, including the native flora, fauna and wildlife, much of which is endangered. This is unethical.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

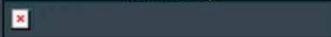
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## Jonah Bobilin

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over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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From: [Jonah Bobilin](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jonah Bobilin  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 12:33:21 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Jonah Bobilin

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

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duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that

disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for

active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural



studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



## Henry Boothe

I feel the eis should investigate the following impacts (historical and foreseeable):

- Jurisdiction (you are breaking Article VI Clause 2 of the us constitution (breaking our US-Hawai'i treaties, pretending there is a treaty of annexation and nearly erasing an entire culture that continues to be oppressed as second class citizens. heartbreaking. one of the biggest wrongs of the US that continue.))
- environmental/human health risks involved in military presence
- water use (amounts, implication on community, environmental ecology (animals and plants, culture))
- water discharge (content, amounts, locations and their impacts on environment, community, animals and plants, recreation and cultural impacts)
- animals (all possible impacts)
- human (pollution, pandemic spread)
- plants (inventory, risks)
- bomb/chemical storage risks
- social risks
- crime
- resource competition
- impacts producing homelessness (in communities and in it's own imported personnel after service)
- political risks
- domestic terrorism risk (radicalization, importing trump supporters)
- target from other nations due to US presence in Hawai'i
- Consent (article 28 of the UNDRIP states "Military activities shall not take place in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples, unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned." you must have consent.)
- endangered turtles (especially tumors from dumping nitrate into the ocean)
- cultural impacts (the Hawaiian culture is not just what can be seen, it is also the environment in it's entirety. plants, waters, and animals. physical manifestations of gods held with reverence within Kanaka Maoli and used in hula, medicine, ocean voyaging, indigenous agriculture, chants, clothing, and so much more. extremely important. your large presence is a major threat
- history of the areas
- iwi kupuna

Thank you.

## Maria Bortolaso

Aloha, my name is Maria Bortolaso and I live in Illinois. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities.

The army was wrongfully leased these areas from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## NATASHA BOTEILHO

Enough desecration on Hawaiian Kingdom lands that should be return to house, feed and support the rightful native kanaka maoli

## Adele Bothersten

Aloha. My name is Adele Bothersten. I'm a settler, but I grew up here on Oahu between Kailua and Kaneohe, and I oppose the extension of this lease and the ongoing U.S. military occupation of Hawai'i. I used to catch the school -- the bus across the street from the Marine base going to school where as an adolescent I experienced catcalls, intimidation, abuse, and even assault from servicemembers on the street or riding the bus almost daily. For me, this experience has become emblematic of the U.S. military's treatment of Hawai'i and its people. U.S. Armed Forces have never been good stewards of this 'aina. Consider the irrevocable damage wrought by the U.S. Navy on Kaho'olawe that rendered the island uninhabitable, while unexploded ordnance poses ongoing health and safety risks to residents on every island. And 80-year-old fuel tanks in Red Hill threaten one of Oahu's major sources of drinking water. Today 28,000 kanaka maoli are currently on the waitlist for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and 15,000 Hawai'i residents are currently houseless, with thousands more at risk of losing their homes, all while our state struggles to distribute rental assistance and process unemployment claims filed over a year ago. With so many kanaka oiwi priced out of their homes every day, it would be unconscionable for the Army to retain control of a single one of the 6,300 acres leased against the people's will for an insulting \$1 price. Hasn't the U.S. military abused this place enough? The Army does not know the meaning of aloha 'aina, and their continued occupation of this land is a threat to Hawai'i's natural and cultural environment. Give these lands back to Hawai'i's people. Mahalo.

## Chelsea Boyle

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased this land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Elisabeth Bragale

Hello,

I am writing you to express my opposition against the US military “leasing” Hawaiian land for military use. It is disgraceful the harm you have done to the land and the native Hawaiian people. Cancel this “lease extension” and return the land to its rightful owners: the native Hawaiian people. End the occupation.

Sincerely, Elisabeth Bragale Elisabeth (Liz) Bragale She/Her

**From:** [Elisabeth Bragale](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oppose Lease Extension Hawaii  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 11:24:13 AM

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Hello,

I am writing you to express my opposition against the US military “leasing” Hawaiian land for military use. It is disgraceful the harm you have done to the land and the native Hawaiian people.

Cancel this “lease extension” and return the land to its rightful owners: the native Hawaiian people. End the occupation.

Sincerely,  
Elisabeth Bragale

Elisabeth (Liz) Bragale  
She/Her

## David Bramlett

I strongly support the Army and other services including the Hawaii National Guard and the Marines to train both on Oahu as well as Pohakuloa Training Area. These forces, vital to the nation's defense and especially in the Indo-Pacific region, need to have the training and operational readiness to deploy at any time on short notice. Training areas are essential components of readiness. The Army has proven to be attentive to the training area lands by proactive stewardship and quickly responding to identified shortcomings. Working together, the Army and the state can balance the competing demands. And, the military has proven to be good neighbors -- community projects, aiding in emergencies (medevac, firefighting, disaster relief, etc) -- to say nothing about the major impact on the economic health of the state. There are no downsides that cannot be mitigated.



## Kalea Bridgemohan

The U.S occupation of The Kingdom of Hawaii is modern day colonialism. Every acre of this land should be given back to the people of Hawaii.

## Kathleen E Brizuela Absalon

Aloha!


I am writing to oppose the renewal of the Army's lease of 30,000 acres of land belonging to the State of Hawai'i. Even without retaining these acres of land, the Army has enough land on O'ahu and elsewhere in Hawai'i to conduct training missions.

I would like for the total area dedicated to Army training to be reduced by this amount of land, and for Hawai'i to be used more for and be seen more as a source of peacemaking for the U.S.A. and for the world.

In Hawai'i, we do not have excess amounts of land and are working to become more self-sufficient economically to improve our standards of living and costs of living and to protect against future unforeseen difficulties, whether from natural or human-created sources. We need to use these acres of land toward these restorative purposes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment!

Kathleen Brizuela



Alyssa Brooks

To whom it may concern:

My name is Alyssa Brooks, and I am a California resident. As a community volunteer residing in a state that also has a dying natural environment, I've seen first hand what the destruction of land looks like. I've also seen first hand what the military destroys here in California. The indigenous people of Hawaii, and wild life protectors all around the country are calling for the end of the military lease of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. The extension of the lease allows the military to further destroy the animals, plants, and the natural habitats of the community. The lease is detrimental to the habitats of Hawaii, and should not be renewed.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Brooks

**From:** [alyssabro28](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] End Military Lease  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:24:30 AM

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To whom it may concern:

My name is Alyssa Brooks, and I am a California resident. As a community volunteer residing in a state that also has a dying natural environment, I've seen first hand what the destruction of land looks like. I've also seen first hand what the military destroys here in California. The indigenous people of Hawaii, and wild life protectors all around the country are calling for the end of the military lease of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. The extension of the lease allows the military to further destroy the animals, plants, and the natural habitats of the community. The lease is detrimental to the habitats of Hawaii, and should not be renewed.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Brooks

## Celina Brown

My name is Celina Brown. As a citizen of the US & resident of Washington, DC, I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, & Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will cause further damage to the natural resources and habitat of the land and continue lowering the quality of life for the local community by disturbing the peace through sound pollution and blocking public access to the living indigenous culture and history of those regions. When the leases expire, this land should be immediately given back to the public.

Thank you, Celina

**From:** Celina Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:32  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Public Testimony Opposing Military Lease Extensions on Makua, Kahuku, & Wahiawa

My name is Celina Brown. As a citizen of the US & resident of Washington, DC, I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, & Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will cause further damage to the natural resources and habitat of the land and continue lowering the quality of life for the local community by disturbing the peace through sound pollution and blocking public access to the living indigenous culture and history of those regions. When the leases expire, this land should be immediately given back to the public.

Thank you,  
Celina

## Kysa Brown

I strongly oppose the military occupying the lands of Makua, Kahuku and Wahiawa. The natural resources are being destroyed and taken wrongly from the native people of this land.

## Madison Brown

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... the United States military is illegally occupying land that was stolen in 1893. The environmental pollution and destruction of fragile indigenous ecosystems is done for the low low cost of \$1 FOR 65 YEARS. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ʻāina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Madison Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:10  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Madison Brown

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Madison Brown
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	the United States military is illegally occupying land that was stolen in 1893. The environmental pollution and destruction of fragile indigenous ecosystems is done for the low low cost of \$1 FOR 65 YEARS.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ʻāina. The leasing of ʻāina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ʻāina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead

includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i

residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented



archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Puanani Brown

Hi. Yes, my name Puanani Helana Ruth Pulana Ipukolani Ipualani Brown. I'm calling to leave comments about the extension of the retention at Pohakuloa training area and Makua Valley. As a native Hawaiian woman and graduate of Harvard college with a degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy, I'm shocked that this is even a discussion to have an environmental impact statement of this valley. Just considering the amount of damage that's caused by the US military on Native Hawaiian lands that were crown land illegally ceded to the US government, I would like to evaluate the US government's right to be on those lands in the first place.

In addition to that, I would like to know the amount of different species that have gone near the brink of extinction or have gone extinct since the US military's use of Pohakuloa as the army's playground. The US military move there after we had stopped the bombing of Kahoolawe, a sacred Native Hawaiian island that the US military was using for target practice for over 40 years to just shift to Makua Valley, which is also sacred—Makua meaning mother—is just completely disrespectful. And to do that, so close to Maunakea, which is in Hawaii's genealogical connection the mountain of Wakea, sky father who we all descend from. In addition to that, I would like a geological survey of the underlying ground and rock formations to know about the chemicals that are being leaked into the groundwater. I would like to know really like what right that the US has to begin with, to be taking Native Hawaiian lands and bombing it. Well, how many thousands of Native Hawaiians have been waiting for lands that were promised from the DHHL in terms of having a land face as an indigenous people where under an imperial military power which is the United States that took our country by force. We have never relinquished our rights. Show me the Treaty. It was a completely illegal overthrow and forced taking of my nation so to even be using that as a place to bomb and practice bombing other countries that, then, you kill. It's just not right for the US to be using my homeland as like a genocide machineso...I'd also like to know about the amount of contamination that's leaking into the ocean from the ground water aquifers. Yeah, native species that have species that have gone extinct, I would like to know how much access that Native Hawaiian gatherers of the ahupuaa have rights, are able to go and gather without harm of being hurt by explosives. Think that's it for now. Thank you. I would like to know who can culturally practice and exercise their religious rights in that valley as well. There are families that are genealogically tied to that land in that ahupuaa and they should be invited to explain how much gathering, they can do, how much cultural practice or worship they can do and how many native species have disappeared, that they used to see in that valley. Thank you.

## Puanani Brown

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the

cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

I demand a geological survey of the underlying rock formations and water quality and contamination at and near these sites to assess how the use of these lands impacts the ground water aquifers. In the Hawai‘i State Constitution, water is a public trust resource with cultural and



environmental significance. There must also be a full assessment of the US military's use, diversion and hoarding of water and the quantity and quality of those waters. There needs to be a report on the military's historical and current impact on the freshwater springs, rivers, streams, and waterfalls that once flowed to places like Wai'anae, lands now noticeably dry and set aside for toxic waste dumps - often cited as an example of environmental racism in Hawai'i and home to the largest percentage of Native Hawaiians. I hope a cultural impact statement is also in the works to assess the impact on Kanaka Maoli that occurs when these lands are being bombed and desecrated, like Kaho'olawe, as well as the psychological and emotional toll of our forced removal from these lands that we are meant to care for.

**From:** Puanani Brown <notifications@cognitoforms.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 2:28  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Puanani Brown

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Puanani Brown
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	<a href="mailto:phrbrown@gmail.com">phrbrown@gmail.com</a>
I RESIDE IN:	New York, New York 10011
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	the US military is destroying our 'Āina. While Hawai'i is 90% food insecure, the US military is bombing what was once fertile lands, meant for growing food and sustaining the Hawaiian people in our culture. This land is being poisoned & littered with explosive ordinances to fight wars that only put Kanaka Maoli and Hawaiian citizens at risk as a target. The presence of the US military is driving up the cost of living in Hawai'i for the Native people

who are being forced out of our own homeland.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of

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negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

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Kaho'olawe, as well as the psychological and emotional toll of our forced removal from these lands that we are meant to care for.



Powered by

## Kimberly Buck

My name is Kimberly Buck and I'm a resident of Pennsylvania.

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

We are dealing with environmental disaster after environmental disaster. The UN just issued a code red for humanity after the latest IPCC report. We can't keep doing what we've always done.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue disrupting the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased this land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:34:11 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Forwarding comment from our in-box

**From:** Kimberly Buck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:34 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa

My name is Kimberly Buck and I'm a resident of Pennsylvania.

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

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Sincerely,

Kimberly Buck

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Meredith Buck

Aloha, my name is Meredith Buck and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI. My grandmother and her Portuguese ancestors were born and raised in Honolulu, Kona, and Kohala. I am fifth generation, with relatives across the pae 'āina. All the men in my family served multi-decade careers in the Army and Navy, some achieving notable ranks. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extension of Military leases within Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

My primary concern is the impact that military activity has on the existing environment. An extension of these leases would allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals. My grandmother, who is from Honolulu, now lives in Mililani. She always tells me stories of how drastically the environment has changed since she was a girl in the 30s and 40s. Because the original koa forests have been decimated by colonial development, the wind patterns have changed and the weather is much hotter now than it was in those days. For Hawai'i, the loss of upland forests in particular also means loss of thermal regulation, loss of habitat, and damaged watersheds. Outside of upland forests, all other indigenous habitats serve critical environmental purposes which benefit us all. Unfortunately due to development and military activity much of this ecology has been severely damaged if not lost altogether. But it's not too late to prevent further damage.

I also feel that continued military activity at Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā would prove to be a continual disruption to the local community, perpetuation over 120 years of trauma inflicted on Kānaka Maoli by America and its military in particular. Ending existing Military leases on these lands would be a strong step toward reconciliation between nations.

Further, the Army has leased these lands from the state for only one dollar since 1964, yet the median price of a residential home on O'ahu remains at or near the one-million-dollar mark. I believe that if the Military is to occupy a huge portion of our islands, then it should be responsible for contributing significantly to the local community. Could the Military not pay such a lease as one that would provide the funds to improve our chronically crumbling infrastructure ?

Overall I am opposed to these leases continuing. However, as I mentioned previously, I am the child of a Military household, and I do value the military. In that light, if the Military is to continue to occupy these lands, I'd like to see a much more creative solution to extending the lease than giving Hawaiian lands away for \$free.<sup>99</sup> How can this move away from a parasitic relationship, into a symbiotic one ? If there is no answer, then the answer is to end the leases.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Meredith Buck  
96740

## andrea Buckman

Aloha, I object to any further leasing, occupation, or military activities in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. While I can appreciate the intended role of the US military in protecting the citizens of the United States, further presence in our Islands is inappropriate, violent, destructive, and disrespectful. I ask that the US government discontinue further occupation of lands in the Kingdom of Hawaii, and end further subjection of our community to the physical, emotional, and psychological threats and destruction that military occupation brings.

Tremendous damage has already been done to our environment, our people, and our mentality and it's time for this to end. Please do not pursue additional leases, military trainings, or other practices in the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

## Karly Burch

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... In a time of climate crisis, we need to be caring for our lands and using them to promote resilience in Hawai'i. We also need to be giving land back to Kanaka Maoli, and not to the US military. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian

biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



**From:** Karly Burch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 14:17  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Karly Burch

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Karly Burch
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Pukalani, Hawaii 96768
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	In a time of climate crisis, we need to be caring for our lands and using them to promote resilience in Hawai'i. We also need to be giving land back to Kanaka Maoli, and not to the US military.
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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the



nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision

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## mauna burgess

The use of sacred lands needs to be stopped, especially at Makua valley. It has been proved time and again that this is a sacred site and a valuable ecological environment, home to many endemic plants and animals that are threatened or endangered. The valley is our parent valley, the first valley of the island, and needs to be protected and preserved, and accessible to our people. The beach across the street is a sacred space for many that live in Wai’anae, as a place to commune with the ‘āina, the ocean, and the old gods. The base across the street of Makua beach, and the ordinance that occasionally washes down, are an affront to our sacred spaces. We of the Wai’anae and Hawaiian community will not stand having Army renew their leases on our sacred lands.

## Cheryl Burghardt

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... these are lands that belong and always have belonged to the Kanaka Maoli of these islands. The State and Federal governments have illegally used these lands by force for too many years. They have not reasonably taken care of these lands nor paid an appropriate rent. As a renter in Honolulu, I know that if I abused my leased space the way that the military has and continues to do, I would be kicked out and not allowed to lease anywhere else in Hawai‘i.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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From: Cheryl Burghardt  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Cheryl Burghardt  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 10:21:47 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Cheryl Burghardt

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

these are lands that belong and always have belonged to the Kanaka Maoli of these islands. The State and Federal governments have illegally used these lands by force for too many years. They have not reasonably taken care of these lands nor paid an appropriate rent. As a renter in Honolulu, I know that if I abused my leased space the way that the military has and continues to do, I would be kicked out and not allowed to lease anywhere else in Hawai'i.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF

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LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

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I-262

Kevin Butterbaugh

Hello –

Your link to submit an online comment is not working.

Kevin

**From:** [Kevin Butterbaugh](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Training EIS - Public Involvement  
**Date:** Saturday, July 24, 2021 9:05:52 AM

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Hello –

Your link to submit an online comment is not working.

Kevin

## Haylin Caballero

Go back to occupy the mainland.

## Michelle Cabalse

I understand that the Army is preparing an EIS for Army Training land Retention at KTS, Poamoho and MMR on the island of Oahu. I oppose the renewal of these leases and ask that the Army take responsibility for the clean up of these areas and that the land be rightfully returned to the communities in which they are found. If the Army is truly honorable they should what the most honorable thing to do and allow the lease to expire. I recently visited a heiau in central Oahu. It is located within a live fire range. The military has been accommodating in allowing visitors, but still some iwi kupuna lay exposed to the sun in a pile of soil accidentally moved by excavation crews. If this were your ancestors grave, you would be just as upset. It's time for the military to step up to the plate and show a greater level of respect and compensation to the people of Hawaii

## Czeska Cabuhat

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**From:** [Czeska Cabuhat](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Czeska Cabuhat  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 7:29:49 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Czeska Cabuhat

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: San Diego, California 92103

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I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

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I-274

that will contaminate our northern aquifer. I know firsthand the devastating effects of military contamination. these lands need to be preserved. I oppose all military presence in pacific islands.

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## Ts'eh Cacek

The US military should pay more than \$1 per acre for land that they stole from Queen Lili'uokalani and the indigenous people of the island. They should pay at least the standard rate of what the land is worth if much not more for reparations.

## Ellen-Rae Cachola

I oppose this U.S. Military extending their use of Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho for further military training. Military training will continue to destroy the environment in these lands. It will further Hawai'i's dependence on war economies. During this time of COVID pandemic, we should be focused on healing our relationships, domestically and internationally, instead of preparing for more war. Return the lands back to the Hawaiian people so it can feed and educate the public.

## Laura Cahill

My name is Laura Cahill I'm resident of Colorado, but I was born on Oahu at Tripler Army Medical Center as my father, a Army veteran of 23 years, was stationed there. While I am proud of his service and am privileged to have lived there because of his service to the US, I think it's time we give land back to the native Hawaiian people. Their land is sacred and needs to be returned. Do not retain this land or lease on the land. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Olivia Camacho

Aloha,My name is Olivia Camacho and I am a resident of Hawaii, I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā and Pōhakaloa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1965. when the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

**From:** [Olivia Camacho](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] HAWAII ARMY TRAINING LAND RETENTION  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:14:22 AM

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Aloha,  
My name is Olivia Camacho and I am a resident of Hawaii, I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā and Pōhakaloa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1965. when the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Chantell Cambia

I oppose on the lease extensions for Military on Hawaiian lands. The land that military are leasing and occupying belongs to the Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians). No more occupying Hawaiian land for military bomb or nuclear testing on Wahiawa, Makua and Kahuku. No more occupying Hawaiian land for military training and warfare. Give land back to Kanaka that have been displaced from the areas of Hawaiian land and not be given an extension for military use.

Thank you.

## Amy Cameron

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... There is no need, military or otherwise, to continue these illegal leases, and in fact the continued occupation does environmental and social harm. Please respectfully release the ill-begotten land for the benefit of the public, Kānaka Maoli, flora and fauna. The appropriate parties, not the U.S. Army, must decide how to mālama this precious and limited natural resource.

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea;

and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. Mahalo nui for your consideration and understanding.

From: Amy Cameron  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Amy Cameron  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:45:51 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Amy Cameron
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	There is no need, military or otherwise, to continue these illegal leases, and in fact the continued occupation does environmental and social harm. Please respectfully release the ill-begotten land for the benefit of the public, Kānaka Maoli, flora and fauna. The appropriate parties, not the U.S. Army, must decide how to mālama this precious and limited natural resource.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the



general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training

exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ʻāina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the

eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and understanding.

Powered by



## Jordan Cameron

I would like to voice opposition to renewing the army's lease in Hawaii. The cost of living in Hawaii does nothing for service members and their presence further disrupts native Hawaiians. As a former military brat I believe we should give as much territory in Hawaii back to indigenous Hawaiians as possible and post a few service members there as is feasible.

Thank you.

-Jordan

**From:** [jordan.b.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.b.cameron@gmail.com)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army land lease  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:18:09 AM

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I would like to voice opposition to renewing the army's lease in Hawaii. The cost of living in Hawaii does nothing for service members and their presence further disrupts native Hawaiians. As a former military brat I believe we should give as much territory in Hawaii back to indigenous Hawaiians as possible and post a few service members there as is feasible.

Thank you.

-Jordan

## Benita Campbell

A total of 30,000 acres of Hawaii state land leased by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers. The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawailoa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation were given away essentially for free, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel for 65 years! The three areas on Oahu are onethird of the 18,060 federal and state lands used for military training on the island, while the 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa are 17% of the 133,000 acres that comprise the largest military training area in the state and in the Pacific region. Refuse to re-lease the land to the US military. Sincerely, Benita J. Campbell Burgettstown, PA

**From:** [benita campbell](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do NOT re-lease the land to the US military  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 10:55:09 AM

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A total of 30,000 acres of Hawaii state land leased by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers.

The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaiiloa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation were given away essentially for free, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel for 65 years!

The three areas on Oahu are onethird of the 18,060 federal and state lands used for military training on the island, while the 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa are 17% of the 133,000 acres that comprise the largest military training area in the state and in the Pacific region.

**Refuse to re-lease the land to the US military.**

Sincerely,  
Benita J. Campbell  
Burgettstown, PA

## Marguerite Campbell MPH

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will enable the military to further damage the natural resources of these lands, destroy the ecosystems of native plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of local communities. The military has wrongfully leases these colonized lands from Hawaii for \$1 since 1969. \$1, while the US has violated treaties made with Indigenous governments for centuries. We cannot continue to exploit Indigenous people and their lands. When the leases expire in 2029, the land should immediately be restored to its rightful Indigenous landholders and they should be compensated for decades of financial exploitation. My hard earned taxed income should not further contribute to the exploitation of Indigenous Hawaiians and their lands.

## Sophie Cann

Hi, I do not think this proposal should be approved. There are a multitude of reason why.

1. The land that is currently being occupied by the us military in Hawaii is the land of the Hawaiian natives, they should be the ones to decide if the military should be in control of so much land. From what I've seen they do not want the military on their island
2. The us military occupies such a large region of Oahu, I can imagine that you do not need all of this land
3. The land is being ruined by the us military practicing whatever they use the land for, the people who could beat manage the land are the Hawaiian natives miles of land and reef have already been destroyed in the islands of Puerto Rico, I think it's not necessary to continue to hurt the land especially when others hold such an importance in it.

## Lindsay Cano

Indigenous Hawaiians deserve the rights to their lands back. Too many people are suffering with the inability to find housing, yet the military takes up so much space on the islands. The military presence on the islands only brings non-native Hawaiians which drives up the prices and disrespects their rights. There is massive amounts of cultural significance in these places that need to be considered. There is also the destruction of important habitat that is important to be considered. It is vastly incomprehensible and unacceptable to continue to take away from the Indigenous population that deserve better.

## michele capobianco

Any military involvement on the islands should be approved by the natives. There is no reason to not involve native voices as these issues are renegotiated. Respect the people of the land and the land. Mahalo.

## Bri Caprisun

I, Brianna Haye demand the lands of 'āina be restored and returned back to the native of Hawaii. I am asking to discontinue the abuse of indigenous land and community for colonizer military trainings.

**From:** [Bri Caprisun](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Demilitarize Hawaii  
**Date:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 10:19:00 AM

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I, Brianna Haye demand the lands of ‘āina be restored and returned back to the native of Hawaii. I am asking to discontinue the abuse of indigenous land and community for colonizer military trainings.

## Montana Cardinal

Hello,

I am writing to request that you let go of these lands. Do not renew the lease of these lands. Give the lands back to the Indigenous peoples of who it belongs to. Let it be.

Thanks kindly,  
Montana Cardinal



**From:** [Montana Cardinal](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] 6,300 acres of land in Wahiawā, Mākua, and Kahuku  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:36:48 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to request that you let go of these lands. Do not renew the lease of these lands. Give the lands back to the Indigenous peoples of who it belongs to. Let it be.

Thanks kindly,

Montana Cardinal

Hana Castillo

I am here fo submit my request that the lease for the US army be Terminated. Give back the Hawaiian land to the Hawaiian people.

## Dillon Castro

My name is Dillon Castro. I am a resident of CA. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased this land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Kenji Cataldo

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākuā, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... the environmental impacts of military training on a small island with limited land and natural resources are unconscionable. O'ahu, like Hawai'i broadly, desperately needs more local food production and more affordable housing, and the military's occupation of over 20% of the island's land only deepens these crises. It's time for the military to return lands to Hawaiians. The cleanup process from decades of contamination may take generations to complete. That's all the more reason to start now. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākuā Military Reservation, Mālama Mākuā has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan;

military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. When Mākua Valley was appropriated after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the community of ranchers, farmers, and rail

workers living in the valley were told the land would be returned to them within six months of the end of WWII. WWII ended 76 years ago. Instead, the Army continued live-fire training and so polluted the valley that it is uninhabitable and unsafe to grow food in. Today, only one former resident of the valley is still alive. He was in high school at the time of eviction. He’s 97 years old today. It is long past time for the Army to undertake a thorough cleanup and restore the valley to the best of its ability. It is long past time for the Army to keep its promise. There are many willing hands ready to join in and mālama Mākua.

From: Kenji Cataldo  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kenji Cataldo  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 9:37:12 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Kenji Cataldo

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

the environmental impacts of military training on a small island with limited land and natural resources are unconscionable. O'ahu, like Hawai'i broadly, desperately needs more local food production and more affordable housing, and the military's occupation of over 20% of the island's land only deepens these crises. It's time for the military to return lands to Hawaiians. The cleanup process from decades of contamination may take generations to complete. That's all the more reason to start now.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized

STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the



general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS

should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice.

Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

When Mākua Valley was appropriated after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the community of ranchers, farmers, and rail workers living in the valley were told the land would be returned to them within six months of the end of WWII. WWII ended 76 years ago. Instead, the Army continued live-fire training and so polluted the valley that it is uninhabitable and unsafe to grow food in. Today, only one former resident of the valley is still alive. He was in high school at the time of eviction. He's 97 years old today. It is long past time for the Army to undertake a thorough cleanup and restore the valley to the best of its ability. It is long past time for the Army to keep its promise. There are many

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willing hands ready to join in and mālama  
Mākua.

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## Nicholas Chagnon

My name is Nick Chagnon, and I'm a resident of Honolulu and professor at UH in sociology. I oppose any use of Hawaiian land for the purposes of the US military. This land was stolen from the Hawaiian people and it should be returned. Beyond that, the US military is the world's largest polluter. It's scope MUST be restricted mightily if our species is to survive. Start that here and now. No more military occupation anywhere in Hawaii!

## Megan Chamberlain

Hello,  
I am an American citizen, and I am writing to express that I do not support the renewal of military leases for the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. If these leases are renewed, only harm will come to those lands, in a time that the earth needs nothing more than a chance to heal. The US military's occupation of Hawaii has done enough harm, let us not continue it.  
Please allow this land to return to the people.  
Thank you, Megan Chamberlain

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**From:** Megan Chamberlain [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:30  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land Leases of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā

Hello,

I am an American citizen, and I am writing to express that I do not support the renewal of military leases for the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. If these leases are renewed, only harm will come to those lands, in a time that the earth needs nothing more than a chance to heal. The US military's occupation of Hawaii has done enough harm, let us not continue it.

Please allow this land to return to the people.

Thank you,  
Megan Chamberlain

## Cassidy Chang

Aloha,

My name is Cassidy and I am a resident of Seattle, WA. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.



## Grace Chang

Leases that were sold for only \$1 on Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā are expiring in 2029 and the US army is already working to retain the land for more military and warfare training. Extending these leases means more bombing, shooting, dropping explosives, and destroying the environment in these communities. This is unacceptable! Stop this violence.

## Willis Chang

Hi,

My understanding is that a 65-year lease is ending for properties in Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho and Mākua. I'd like to lend my support for giving back those properties to the Hawaiian people. And even if you choose to retain some or all of the properties, I'm hopeful that you will consider shortening the lease so that it won't be another 65 years to reconsider.

While I am not part of the groups that would stand to benefit, I do think it is a reasonable ask and something that the Hawaiian people deserve over time. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks, Willis

**From:** [Willis Chang](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] 65-year lease in Oahu  
**Date:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 4:36:50 AM

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Hi,

My understanding is that a 65-year lease is ending for properties in Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho and Mākua. I'd like to lend my support for giving back those properties to the Hawaiian people. And even if you choose to retain some or all of the properties, I'm hopeful that you will consider shortening the lease so that it won't be another 65 years to reconsider.

While I am not part of the groups that would stand to benefit, I do think it is a reasonable ask and something that the Hawaiian people deserve over time. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,  
Willis

Tiffany Chater

Do not renew military contracts on this island.

## Daniel Chesmore

Hello,

As a member of the public who was born in Hawaii, I am committed to ensuring that my home state receives its fair share for the 109,000 acres the military leases on Oahu without cost or \$1.

The current annual lease cost for 1 square foot is \$35.84 per year in Oahu. Converting 109,000 acres into square feet results in 4,748,040,000 square feet which should cost \$170,169,753,600. The military should pay what is just, fair, and reasonable given the federal government's acknowledgment that the Kingdom of Hawai'i was illegally annexed by this nation. The military and US Federal government should pay at least half of this amount and no less than \$85 Billion per year to the State of Hawaii, as we would much rather use this land to address our state's housing crisis.

Regards, Daniel

**From:** Daniel Chesmore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:38  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** HawaiiOffice@hirono.senate.gov; Rep. Ed Case;  
andrew\_winer@schatz.senate.gov; kai.kahele@mail.house.gov  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu Lease

Hello,

As a member of the public who was born in Hawaii, I am committed to ensuring that my home state receives its fair share for the 109,000 acres the military leases on Oahu without cost or \$1.

The current annual lease cost for 1 square foot is \$35.84 per year in Oahu. Converting 109,000 acres into square feet results in 4,748,040,000 square feet which should cost \$170,169,753,600. The military should pay what is just, fair, and reasonable given the federal government's acknowledgment that the Kingdom of Hawai'i was illegally annexed by this nation. The military and US Federal government should pay at least half of this amount and no less than \$85 Billion per year to the State of Hawaii, as we would much rather use this land to address our state's housing crisis.

Regards,  
Daniel

## Emma Ching

Aloha, my name is Emma Ching and I am against renewing the lease of these lands to the army. The land should be restored to the public and allowed to heal physically from the military usage. The military should pay more than adequately for people to work on restoring the land in a reasonable amount of time to either its ideal natural state or for gentle use by and engagement with the community. If the lease is renewed, the army should pay a fair amount to the state and Hawaiians, at least equivalent to the Oahu land rates that locals are forced to pay, with inflation, so that their presence is at least contributing to the economy. A lease of \$1 is taking unfair advantage of a place and people that deserve better treatment and there is no reason that should continue. The military needs to give back more than it takes. Financially, the military is one of the highest funded entities and can afford to pay its fair share, at the very least. Thank you.

## Susan Ching Harbin

Main comments regarding this EIS are thus:

1-leasing public lands should require a level of environmental protection for maintaining current land value (to include prevention further ecosystem degradation by invasive species, loss of endangered plant and animal taxa). Funds should be set aside directly for these leased parcels and not lumped into Makua or Schofield DOT owned parcels. The good work done for Makua and Schofield mitigation should not count towards the lease of these public lands with separate endangered species and environmental concerns.

2-KTA has seen introductions of invasive species by military vehicles. The clean up of this should be paid for by the same organization. Self assessment of the invasive species introductions and consequences is not objective and should be conducted by the landowner (i.e. state).

3-Poamoho parcel- retaining current training allowed means that the proposal for the upper portion of this parcel to become a Natural Area Reserve would be invalid (BLNR found that current training allowed is not compatible with the NAR designation). The EIS should include reduction of allowable military actions in the upper portions of this parcel so that it is compatible with increased state protections. OR the funding to this parcel by DOT should increase to manage endangered species and habitat in the area that would have been under the higher state protections granted by becoming a NAR.

## Liam Chinn

To whom it may concern: As a taxpayer, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each. Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered. Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include: 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises. 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies. 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback. Liam Chinn

**From:** [Liam Chinn](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lease Expiration  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 19:52:50 PM

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To whom it may concern:

As a taxpayer, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered.

Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises.

2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies.

3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of

landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Liam Chinn

## Evelyn Chorush

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Since you are taking comments on the 2029 "renewal" date for leases on the Hawaiian Islands, I wanted to express my opposition to having a military presence/bases on the Hawaiian Islands.

We all know that jumping to military "solutions" to diplomatic foreign policy concerns is not good for those who serve, for the American people or anyone else on this planet - except maybe the profiteers who should not be allowed to drive policies that are counterproductive to us all.

It would be great if our military service people could be asked to work on the real national security issues of our time - protecting us from a looming disruption of climate change.

We know that shifting to a sustainable, stabilizing set of energy policies would make a helluva difference to the lives of our children, grandchildren and a liveable planet.

y'all could be a very important part of these solutions.

Thank you!

Evelyn Chorush

**From:** [Evelyn Chorush](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I strongly disapprove the renewal of military leases on the Hawaiian Islands.  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 10:37:14 AM

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Dear Sirs and Madams,

Since you are taking comments on the 2029 "renewal" date for leases on the Hawaiian Islands, I wanted to express my opposition to having a military presence/bases on the Hawaiian Islands.

We all know that jumping to military "solutions" to diplomatic foreign policy concerns is not good for those who serve, for the American people or anyone else on this planet - except maybe the profiteers who should not be allowed to drive policies that are counterproductive to us all.

It would be great if our military service people could be asked to work on the real national security issues of our time - protecting us from a looming disruption of climate change.

We know that shifting to a sustainable, stabilizing set of energy policies would make a helluva difference to the lives of our children, grandchildren and a liveable planet.

y'all could be a very important part of these solutions.

Thank you!

Evelyn Chorush

## Carl Christensen

I am a resident of Oahu and now submit my comments on topics that should be addressed in any proposed lease of State-owned lands on Oahu to the US Army. My comments are as follows:  
The EIS Must Fulfill the Requirements of Both Federal and State law  
The Army must of course comply with the requirements of NEPA in the preparation of the EIS, but it should be remembered that the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) must also fully comply with its obligations under State law in granting any lease, including but not limited to Article XII, Section 7, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i and Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and thus the EIS will need to be more comprehensive and address a broader range of issues, including but not limited to off-site impacts of on-site activities and impacts on the customary and traditional activities of Native Hawaiians, than if only the requirements of NEPA were relevant.  
Army Compliance with State Law in its Activities on Leased State Land  
In its activities on federally owned lands the Army is not normally subject to enforcement actions regarding violations of State law, as federal sovereign immunity would bar most such suits, at least by private citizens. As a tenant on State-owned land, however, the Army must fully comply with all provisions of Hawai'i law in the same manner as would any other tenant. Provisions of Hawai'i law including but not limited to Article XII, Sections 4 and 7, of the State Constitution and Chapters 6E, 195D, 205, Hawai'i Revised Statutes impose regulatory requirements that go beyond those of applicable Federal laws, and the Army must inform itself of these additional requirements so it can ensure compliance. The EIS should identify all such applicable State laws. Furthermore, the Hawai'i Supreme Court has repeatedly held that Hawai'i's citizens have broad rights to bring suit in State court to enforce these laws against private and public parties, as responsible public officials often fail to do so. BLNR has no authority to treat the Army differently from any other tenant with respect to enforcement of State law and would likely be in breach of its trust obligations if it waived any of its rights, or the rights of Hawai'i's citizens, to sue in State court to enforce these State laws. Any limitation on the enforcement rights of the State or its citizens would have adverse environmental effects in that it would foreseeably result in under-enforcement if State law applicable to the leased lands. Furthermore, recent litigation in the Hawai'i Supreme Court regarding the Army's activities at Pohakuloa has demonstrated that citizen enforcement is essential as the Army's record as a tenant is seriously flawed and BLNR has proven itself unable or unwilling to properly police Army activities on leased lands or to prevent the unlawful waste of trust assets. Accordingly, the EIS must disclose the mechanisms by which the proposed lease will preserve the rights of the Hawai'i's citizens to enforce State law against BLNR and/or the Army and the foreseeable under-enforcement of state environmental laws that would result if federal sovereign immunity precludes the citizen suits that would be available to Hawai'i's citizens for lands leased to any non-federal tenant.  
Public Land Trust  
The EIS should identify any lands subject to the proposed lease that are assets of the public land trusts established by the Hawaii Admission Act and Article XII, Section 4, of the State Constitution. Impact on Cultural Resources  
Hawai'i law provides its citizens with protection for cultural resources that goes beyond those provided under Federal law. In particular, Article XII, Section 7, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i provides that "The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate such rights", and the Hawai'i Supreme Court has held that this provision requires State and county agencies authorizing various land uses to identify any customary and traditional uses that may be

affected by proposed activities and impose conditions that will protect their continued exercise to the extent practicable. The EIS must fully address this issue to enable BLNR to fulfill its legal obligations. Impacts on Protected and Other Rare Wildlife In addition to any animal and plant species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act the EIS should consider the impact of proposed activities on all "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" identified in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan that may occur on the lands subject to the proposed lease. If currently available information is insufficient to allow the assessment of these impacts, additional biological survey work should be undertaken to provide the necessary data. Impacts of Fire Historically, Army activities on leased State lands have caused extensive damage to natural resources by fire, including plant and animal species protected under Federal and State law. The EIS should review the history of wildfires on Army lands on O'ahu, including their extent, frequency, and causes, should identify the resources at risk and the measures to be taken to minimize the risk of future fires, and should describe the resources available to extinguish wildfires in the event they occur.

Carl C. Christensen XXXX XXXX Street

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:43  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Lease of State Lands on Oahu to the US Army--Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

I am a resident of Oahu and now submit my comments on topics that should be addressed in any proposed lease of State-owned lands on Oahu to the US Army. My comments are as follows:

#### The EIS Must Fulfill the Requirements of Both Federal and State law

The Army must of course comply with the requirements of NEPA in the preparation of the EIS, but it should be remembered that the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) must also fully comply with *its* obligations under State law in granting any lease, including but not limited to Article XII, Section 7, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i and Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and thus the EIS will need to be more comprehensive and address a broader range of issues, including but not limited to off-site impacts of on-site activities and impacts on the customary and traditional activities of Native Hawaiians, than if only the requirements of NEPA were relevant.

#### Army Compliance with State Law in its Activities on Leased State Land

In its activities on federally owned lands the Army is not normally subject to enforcement actions regarding violations of State law, as federal sovereign immunity would bar most such suits, at least by private citizens. As a tenant on State-owned land, however, the Army must fully comply with all provisions of Hawai'i law in the same manner as would any other tenant. Provisions of Hawai'i law including but not limited to Article XII, Sections 4 and 7, of the State Constitution and Chapters 6E, 195D, 205, Hawai'i Revised Statutes impose regulatory requirements that go beyond those of applicable Federal laws, and the Army must inform itself of these additional requirements so it can ensure compliance. The EIS should identify all such applicable State laws. Furthermore, the Hawai'i Supreme Court has repeatedly held that Hawai'i's citizens have broad rights to bring suit in State court to enforce these laws against private and public parties, as responsible public officials often fail to do so. BLNR has no authority to treat the Army differently from any other tenant with respect to enforcement of State law and would likely be in breach of its trust obligations if it waived any of its rights, or the rights of Hawai'i's citizens, to sue in State court to enforce these State laws. Any limitation on the enforcement rights of the State or its citizens would have adverse environmental effects in that it would foreseeably result in under-enforcement if State law applicable to the leased lands. Furthermore, recent litigation in the Hawai'i Supreme Court regarding the Army's activities at Pohakuloa has demonstrated that citizen enforcement is essential as the Army's record as a tenant is seriously flawed and BLNR has proven itself unable or unwilling to properly police Army activities on leased lands or to prevent the unlawful waste of trust assets. Accordingly, the EIS must disclose the mechanisms by which the proposed lease will preserve the rights of the Hawai'i's citizens to enforce State law against BLNR and/or the Army and the foreseeable under-enforcement of state environmental laws that would result if federal sovereign immunity precludes the citizen suits that would be available to Hawai'i's citizens for lands leased to any non-federal tenant.

#### Public Land Trust



The EIS should identify any lands subject to the proposed lease that are assets of the public land trusts established by the Hawaii Admission Act and Article XII, Section 4, of the State Constitution.

#### Impact on Cultural Resources

Hawai'i law provides its citizens with protection for cultural resources that goes beyond those provided under Federal law. In particular, Article XII, Section 7, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i provides that "The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua`a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate such rights", and the Hawai'i Supreme Court has held that this provision requires State and county agencies authorizing various land uses to identify any customary and traditional uses that may be affected by proposed activities and impose conditions that will protect their continued exercise to the extent practicable. The EIS must fully address this issue to enable BLNR to fulfill its legal obligations.

#### Impacts on Protected and Other Rare Wildlife

In addition to any animal and plant species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act the EIS should consider the impact of proposed activities on all "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" identified in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan that may occur on the lands subject to the proposed lease. If currently available information is insufficient to allow the assessment of these impacts, additional biological survey work should be undertaken to provide the necessary data.

#### Impacts of Fire

Historically, Army activities on leased State lands have caused extensive damage to natural resources by fire, including plant and animal species protected under Federal and State law. The EIS should review the history of wildfires on Army lands on O'ahu, including their extent, frequency, and causes, should identify the resources at risk and the measures to be taken to minimize the risk of future fires, and should describe the resources available to extinguish wildfires in the event they occur.

Carl C. Christensen

██████████  
████████████████████

## Allegra Christianscher

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuna, Kahuku, and W'ahiawā. An extension of the military leases will allow for the continued destruction of native lands, disruptions of native communities and damage natural resources. The military has wrongly leased the land from the state since 1964. When the lease is up in 2029 the land should be immediately returned to the public and indigenous peoples of Hawaii.

## Mariko Cilley

I oppose military use and occupation of these lands, detrimental to the environment that is in use and the surrounding areas

## Mary Clapp

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... This land was unlawfully seized from native Hawaiian people in the first place and should be returned for the good of the first people and the land. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military

training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Mary Clapp  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Mary Clapp  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 17:42:46 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Mary Clapp

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Lee Vining, California 93541

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO BECAUSE...

This land was unlawfully seized from native Hawaiian people in the first place and should be returned for the good of the first people and the land.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The

exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of



conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and

ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Bianca Clark

Return stolen land to Native Hawaiians. This land is illegally occupied by the US government

## Amanda Clemmons

The army needs to return the land to native Hawaiians so that they can attempt to heal their island from the effects of colonialism. They also need to be properly compensated for the 60 year lease that the US army only paid \$1 for

## Kanoa Cleveland

Aloha. I am a Kanaka Maoli student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My field of study is our indigenous culture. I have come to the conclusion that in order to create an adequate Environmental Impact Statement for any Hawaiian lands intended for militarization or development, it is important to address aspects of the Native Hawaiian culture which have allowed 'āina (land) in Hawai'i to thrive for countless generations.

The sacred familial relationship between kānaka (humans) and 'āina is the core of this culture.

When we talk about "our land," we do not mean it in the same way that someone would say "our house." We mean something like "our mother." This understanding illustrates how important it is that we treat the environment with respect and care, continually supporting the growth and health of the 'āina.

It is crucial that indigenous geographies and landmarks are preserved. Items which fall under this list are man-made landmarks such as heiau (temples), ahu (stone altars), and pā ilina (burial sites), which preserve the culture of the area. Also on this list are natural landmarks including mauna (mountains), kahawai (rivers/streams), and ulu lā'au (forests), all of which contain diverse ecosystems which sustain life in the area.

These issues must be acknowledged and addressed when creating the EIS, and consultation with kahuna (cultural experts) to ensure that this is being done properly is imperative. Mahalo for considering my input.

## Kanoa Cleveland

As a Native Hawaiian, I would like to submit that "NO ACTION" be taken and the leases be allowed to expire in 2029.

These lands hold significant cultural importance to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii. Sadly, the US military has broken promises and lost trust with the Hawaiian people by leaving their messes for others to clean up, like the once beautiful and thriving island of Kaho'olawe. Kaho'olawe is now a dangerous minefield of unexploded ordinances from the US military's drills, for example, Operation "Sailor Hat", where 500-tons of dynamite was detonated on the southern tip of island.

We do not trust the US Military to use our ancient and respect-deserving land as by history the US Military has only spat in our faces and decimated our land with no consultation or repercussions.

The deep love and connection to the lands, Aloha 'Āina, is central to the Native Hawaiian being, cosmology, and culture. Hawaii is comprised of a group of a small islands with limited resources that were expertly managed by our ancestors for hundreds of years. The US government must do the difficult work of relocating these training grounds elsewhere and begin the process of cleaning up and restoring the land. Surely the military can find an appropriate venue for training facilities in the 1.9 billion acres of land which comprises the contiguous 48 states. It is time for the US government to recognize that it has a responsibility to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii to restore and return the lands which were taken illegally.

## Kanoa‘ihimaikalani Cleveland

All right. Aloha nui kakou. My name is Kanoa'ihimaikalani. I'm also here to request that you guys take no action and let the leases expire, because I agree with what everyone is saying. Enough is enough. And we just don't trust you. We have never wanted you here. And since you've been here, you have broken our trust and hurt our "aina.

And one example I would like to give is Kaho'olawe. That -- that island used to be thriving, and it's not now. And "aina is very important to us, because. I want to quote Lanakila Mangauil, and I want to say that it is not the same. When we say "our land", we don't mean it the same way when we say "our house" or "our car". We mean it the same way when we say "our mother", you know. So when we say get off our land, we don't mean get off our property. It means stop forcing yourself on our kupuna, because it's hurtful, and she doesn't want you here. And this has never been respected by the U.S. military. And so I believe it's time to find a new place to do this work, you know. There's about 1.9 billion acres of land which comprises the contiguous 48 states that I feel like you could find a better location than a place which is still an independent and proud nation.

It's time. It's time to ho'ihoi "aina and ho'ihoi ea. And that's all I have to say. Mahalo.

## Kanoa‘ihimaikalani Cleveland

Yeah. Aloha. I kind of --well, mostly, I wanted to mahalo everybody for sharing. I don't I feel like I don't need to go into it anymore about how heavy everything that's going on here is, because that has been discussed a lot.

But I think that, if I could say one thing to you, Colonel, about how we can remedy this, I'd want to say that regardless of how it's very clear how we all feel about the military, you know, I still know that you're a person. I still know that you probably what you did for, you know, to provide a good life for yourself, for your family, orwhatever.

But that's all we're trying to do for ourselves right now. And I think that if, like Punahale said, you know, we like work with you, we like help you do this. But, you know, we got to be involved so that we can make sure it gets done right. And you got to be involved, because you made the mess that you got to help clean up.

You know, there's, I don't know, not much more that can be said. But just talking to you, Colonel, person to person, if there's anything that you can do to send this higher up and work with kanaka and organizations that want to help make this right, I'm urging you to find the humanity and do that for us. Mahalo.



## Marlene Coach-Eisenstein

As a retired military officer, I am oppose to the renewal of the contract. I believe the Hawaiian lands should be utilized in support of the Hawaiians and care of their aina. I have seen the destruction of the land used in exercises by the military. I believe it is time for the aina to be healed and cared for by the indigenous people of this island. The 65 year contract needs to end now!

## Jai Coat

Give indigenous Hawaiians their land back! Why on earth do you need more space for violence when these folks want to live in peace? Leave them alone. Landback!

## Janna Coble

Hello,

My name is Janna Coble and I am a resident of North Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you, Janna Coble

**From:** Janna Monet [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:32  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Occupation of Hawaii

Hello,

My name is Janna Coble and I am a resident of North Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you,  
Janna Coble

Kelsey Cohen

Are there important cultural sites or environmental resources that will be harmed?

Natai Collins

Hello, I would like to see the I return of the land currently occupied by the US military to the native Hawaiian people. Thank you

## Kim Compoc

August 10, 2021 I submit the following testimony (see below) on behalf of Jeff Compoc, my uncle, who was born and raised in Kahuku, and is a Vietnam Veteran. I submit these comments with his permission. Sincerely, Kim Compoc “River Assault Squadron 15 Mekong Delta Vietnam. We don’t need to practice for anymore Wars. Practice Love and Peace . It’s always been the poor people sons and daughters who end up in these wars. Korea, Japan, world War 1 and 2, and Vietnam. How many lives were lost? How many Politician sons were lost? They make the Wars but don’t want their sons and daughters in the War Zone. Enough Wars, waste of money and lives for Nothing?” ·

**From:** [Kim Compoc](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Public comment, EIS on renewal of Army leases  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 17:23:50 PM

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August 10, 2021

I submit the following testimony (see below) on behalf of Jeff Compoc, my uncle, who was born and raised in Kahuku, and is a Vietnam Veteran. I submit these comments with his permission.

Sincerely,  
Kim Compoc

“River Assault Squadron 15 Mekong Delta Vietnam.

We don’t need to practice for anymore Wars.

Practice Love and Peace .

It’s always been the poor people sons and daughters who end up in these wars.

Korea, Japan, world War 1 and 2, and Vietnam. How many lives were lost?

How many Politician sons were lost?

They make the Wars but don’t want their sons and daughters in the War Zone.

Enough Wars, waste of money and lives for Nothing?”

·

## Kim Compoc

Very good. My name is Kim Compoc. I'm assistant professor of history, University of Hawai'i West Oahu, and I'm reading a prepared statement from Decolonial Pinays. We are a Honolulu-based organization of Filipinas concerned about the protection of the Hawaiian Islands, of the Philippines, and all peoples under U.S. occupation. We stand in solidarity with kanaka maoli, who demand an end to these leases so that a proper cleanup can begin. The training, as the military calls it, at Kahuku, Pohakuloa, Poamoho, and Makua is a disgrace. What use are live-fire explosions, military helicopters, storage of missiles and other instruments of mass death? Militarism means toxic contamination for generations, desecrating the land and disrespecting indigenous people. Militarism only perpetuates poverty and misery here, in the Philippines, and all over the world. We want to protect these islands. The military's version of protection, however, begins with the backhanded complement that our islands are strategically located to advance U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific region. We do not subscribe to the U.S. military version of security and protection, which is really an agenda of endless war and corporate extraction. We want the military out of these islands so we can build a green economy based on genuine security, survival, and peace. As Filipinas, we stand with the Hawaiian people, because we, too, have suffered under U.S. colonial occupation. We know what it is to have no say over your lands, your economy, your destiny as a people. As the late Haunani-Kay Trask wrote, "To the U.S., Hawaii, like a woman, is there for the taking." We say no more of this madness. The Philippines has so much to teach us. We know the military expansion in Hawai'i will worsen the crisis in the Philippines. That is why we say stop stealing Hawaiian land and the military leases. Stop the multibillion-dollar sale of weapons to the Philippines. Stop funding the killings. Stop your war games on all our precious islands. And stop red-tagging everyone who wants a chance at a decent life for their families. We demand our taxes go to pay for government budget line items that genuinely promote life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, education, housing, health care, transportation. Governments must honor the social contract to provide for the people and the ecosystem we depend on. Mahalo.

## Emily Conklin

I am a resident of Waipahu. I object to the renewal of leases of Hawaiian lands to the US military. The extension of said leases would allow for further harm to delicate ecosystems, risk native plant and animal populations, and disrupt the lives and peace of the local community.

## Marisa Conners

I oppose the planned project and believe the land would be better suited in the care of native Hawai'ian people. Please do not go through with this project. Thank you.

## Katherine Conrad

We need to allow the people of Hawaii to have their own land. We need to demonstrate respect. If the US Army elects to still occupy there needs to be proper compraron, payment and reparations. As well as justification for this occupancy.

## Kinsi Cook

Stop taking land from native Hawaiians. It's not yours to take.

## Jasmine Cooper

Aloha, My name is Jasmine and I am a resident of Sacramento, California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

**From:** [Jasmine Cooper](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] military leases on Hawaiian land  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 15:55:30 PM

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Aloha,

My name is Jasmine and I am a resident of Sacramento, California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leases these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

Mara Cooper

Hi,

I heard your leases are you for renewal in native land. As a us citizen I don't feel comfortable with my tax dollars being used to lease out land that rightfully belongs to Indigenous Hawaiian people to the military. There are plenty of other places to practice blowing shit up. Respectfully asking that you return their homeland, Mara



**From:** [Mara Cooper](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] End leases on Oahu Island  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:09:54 AM

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Hi,

I heard your leases are you for renewal in native land. As a us citizen I don't feel comfortable with my tax dollars being used to lease out land that rightfully belongs to Indigenous Hawaiian people to the military. There are plenty of other places to practice blowing shit up.

Respectfully asking that you return their homeland,  
Mara

Caroline Corry

Stop the army retention of native lands. Give the land back to native hawians.

## Stephanie Cotumaccio

I disagree with the intent of "renewing" land taken from native Hawaiians. I lived on Oahu for two years. In my short time there I saw the negative impact the military as a whole had on their way of life and right to have land. This "renewal" needs to stop before it starts. Give natives their land back.

## Valerie Crabbe

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Enough is enough. Let our aina heal so our people can heal. Stop the historical trauma of our kanaka maoli. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are

eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Valerie Crabbe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 19:07  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Valerie Crabbe

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Valerie Crabbe
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Mililani, Hawaii 96789
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu A Kanaka Maoli
“I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...”	Enough is enough. Let our aina heal so our people can heal. Stop the historical trauma of our kanaka maoli.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY’S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer

greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are

representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



## Marlee Craker

Hello, My name is Marlee, a resident of Utah. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you, Marlee

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Marlee Craker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:32  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaiian Military Lease

Hello,  
My name is Marlee, a resident of Utah. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you,  
Marlee

Sent from my iPhone

## Julia Cramer

So mostly, tonight I came here to learn, and I am really thankful for all the wonderful testimony that was given, because I think I learned a lot, and I heard a lot of really interesting and awesome things. And I am going to submit my testimony in writing, but I had a couple of questions that I was hoping to get answered. So first off, is it possible to get the slides and a full recording of this session? Will that be publicly available?... MS. CRAMER: Okay. No, yeah, that's great. Can I just ask them for the record, I guess, even though you can't answer?... Okay. So I just was curious. Who evaluates the EIS after it's written? And when/if it will be publicly available in its full context? And if you can't answer, I understand. And then finally, what state office actually renews the lease? Like, who has jurisdiction over that lease? A particular part of the state of Hawai'i owns the land or can make decisions.... Okay. Thank you. That's awesome. Thank you.

## Nicole Cristobal

The state of Hawaii should NOT renew land leases to the U.S. military. An ironic truth is that military presence in Hawaii actually leads to less safety. Hawaiians and locals have experienced alot of hurt through militarization. We need to protect our people and places, our culture and lands. No more military leases.

## Dana Crocker

The army should not be allowed to renew their lease of this precious land. It should become a conservation area/nature preservation area.

## Sydney Crowe

The United States military should not be occupying stolen Hawaiian land. Their presence on O'ahu destroys sacred land and prevents Indigenous people from using and protecting land that they have spent centuries living on. The lease should not be removed and the army base should be returned to the native people.

## Ilse Cruz Cordova

Hello, my name is Ilse and I am from California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension will grant the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, including native Hawaiian plants and animals. In addition, this will continue to disturb the lives of the local community by causing noise and light pollution, which disturbs the ecosystem and has negative effects on the plants and animals surrounding these areas. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.



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**From:** Ilse Cruz Cordova [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:46  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Native Land

Hello, my name is Ilse and I am from California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension will grant the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, including native Hawaiian plants and animals. In addition, this will continue to disturb the lives of the local community by causing noise and light pollution, which disturbs the ecosystem and has negative effects on the plants and animals surrounding these areas. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## T.J. Cuaresma

Now, the reason that I'm here tonight. I'm giving up the first night of my grandson's kindergarten dinner celebration to talk to you about the Army. They need to get out. They need to get out now, not wait till 2029. They need to just get out.

I was given the opportunity to go up to Hale'au'au a few weeks ago, and at that time, I took my mom, who is almost 80, with me. My mom's kupuna come from that area. And I'm going to reiterate what every speaker before me has said. The Army has not taken care of the land that was stolen from us and that was taken from us.

There were iwi that have been destroyed, that have been separated up in that area. And that is just one example of why the Army needs to just get out. Don't wait for 2029. You need to just get out. You cannot keep doing this.

Colonel Misigoy, let's go back to where you live. And I've talked to Kehau about this before. Let's go to where your kupuna are, where your ancestors' bones lay, and then let's -- let's go and trample on their graves. Let's go and trample on their bones and then see how your family likes it.

Let's go and destroy the land that your ancestors have fought for and shed blood for --maybe not like the Hawaiians, where we have lived for thousands of years -- and maybe you will feel just 1 percent of how we feel every time we see the military running around not just on the land, but running around through Wahiawa town, running around through Whitmore, running around through Kahuku, leaving trash, hurting things along the way.

So the best thing for the Army to do is to just get out. We don't want you here. We never wanted you here. You're not welcome. And if there's another language that it needs to be spoken in, let me know, and I will find somebody to translate it, and we will speak it in that language also. But the military was never welcomed here. You are not wanted here. Just get out. Thank you.

## Maria Cullen

Give the Natives their land back. You all know it is stolen land. Still to this day, you continue to be as ruthless and ignorant as the white man years ago.  
De-occupy Hawaii. Give the Natives their land back.

**From:** [Maria Cullen](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] De-Occupy Hawaii  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 18:18:24 PM

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Give the Natives their land back. You all know it is stolen land. Still to this day, you continue to be as ruthless and ignorant as the white man years ago.

De-occupy Hawaii. Give the Natives their land back.

## Michelle Current

I oppose this project and think the land should go back to public domain.

## Charlotte Curry

My name is Charlotte, and I am a resident of Alaska. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Wahiawa, Makua, and Kahuku. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local and native communities. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should IMMEDIATELY be restored to the public. Thank you.

## Megan Dalley

Hello, I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. By leasing the land the military is destroying native Hawaiian species and lands. The land should be restored to the native Hawaiian people.

## Lynell DeMate

Okay. I unmuted. Yes, my name is Lynell DaMate. I was born and raised out here on the North Shore. I live in the Kaunala ahupua'a, which is adjacent to the Waiale'e ahupua'a, which is more popularly known as Velseyland. And I don't know who that dude is. It's actually Kaunala Bay is the name of that surf spot.

But first of all, I wanted to thank all the previous speakers. They're doing an excellent job. And I do also agree with all the speaker, to take no action.

So having said that, I'm going to switch gears a little bit, so bear with me. I'd like to make reference to your environmental topics to be analyzed. I want to give you an example of a lie, an ongoing, current lie regarding the noise.

In that study, please be mindful that we've been told time and time again by the military right up here at KTA-1 that, oh, no the helicopters, we're done at 10:00. That is an outright lie. They start at 10:00, and they go past their training time all the way past 11:30. I know, because I stay up, and I watch that clock. So although they say it ends at 10, it starts after 10. And secondly, in this EIS process, you seek consultation; right? Well, what you need to really be looking for is consent. And you have no consent from the people of Hawai'i, no consent to renew the lease. Thank you.

## Lynell DaMate

Okay. Just to bring this conversation back to the EIS portion, like I mentioned earlier, I live right below KTA-1, where the scoping, the EIS process is taking place right now for HDR Hawai'i, which is the -- which is a radar, discrimination radar, that they want to build right up here.

Anyway, I was wondering if -- it seems to be such a convenient time for the military to be lumping all of these communities together, and for one thing, that's already wrong.

Anyway, rules they'll be using, the EIS process that the MDA is already performing to be used with what this new idea about this extension at KTA -- because there's a major difference from 160 acres of the MDA's radar to over 4,000 acres.

So just to let you guys know, we're going to be watching. We're going to be watching how you people do what you say you're going to do. Because on so many levels, this whole thing is all wrong.

And I'm not very comfortable with it, because, you know, I've been using the word "bully" a lot with the military lately, because they -- they go through the process, check off the box, oh, yeah, we did this, we did this, this will satisfy the protocol, satisfy everybody, the process; right?

But we know what really happens; okay. So just to let you know we're going to be watching, and we will pick it apart, because we are going to stand in solidarity, and it is no. Thank you.

## Makanamakamaeonalani DaMate

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... 'A'ole ma'ima'i i kēia mea. Keeps Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands. How much more does the military need to have. They already occupy a vast majority of Hawai'i's land, especially on O'ahu. They are the entire continental U.S. with much more land to choose from. Our environment here on the island are environments that when completely taken away or bombed out or diminished, there is no way to get them back. Listen to Hawaiians and the communities of the areas for once, ke 'olu'olu. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological

and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. Please listen to us for once. We are Hawaiian and will always be Hawaiian.

**From:** Makanamakamaeonalani DaMate  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Makanamakamaeonalani DaMate  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 18:51:28 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Makanamakamaeonalani DaMate
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...."	'A'ole ma'ima'i i kēia mea. Keeps Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands. How much more does the military need to have. They already occupy a vast majority of Hawai'i's land, especially on O'ahu. They is the entire continental U.S. with much more land to choose from. Our environment here on the island are environments that when completely taken away or bombed out or diminished, there is no way to get them back. Listen to Hawaiians and the communities of the areas for once, ke 'olu'olu.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE	These three leases are part of a much broader



FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a

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COMMENTS HERE.

Please listen to us for once. We are Hawaiian and will always be Hawaiian.

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## Diana Dannoun

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Of all the stupid things that you can do with yourselves, destroying destroying some of the most beautiful ecosystems and habitats have to be the dumbest. Are you so bored with yourselves that you honestly have nothing better to do??? Start by getting a life instead of taking some Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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\*\*\*\* US imperialism and \*\*\*\* war, all the machinery involved in the US military is intensively energy dependent on \*\*\*\* oil and fossil fuels.

From: Diana Dannoun  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Diana Dannoun  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:59:03 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Diana Dannoun
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Hawaii 98026
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu
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## Alexia Daoussis

The impacts that army operations have had on the Hawaiian islands are enough - these lands do not belong to the US government & should be re ceded to indigenous peoples.

## Kimberly Dark

These lands should no longer be controlled by the state at all and definitely should not be used for military purposes. As a U.S. citizen and Hawaii resident, it's clear to me that our ethical understanding of the annexation of Hawaii has shifted and as much control should be given back to Hawaiian people as possible. The end of this agreement/lease is an obvious time for the military to step back and cease involvement. Please do the right thing.

Kimberly Dark

## Mara Davis

colonizing land isn't every okay you have to give the land back lease is over cannot be renewed especially because of how military trash the lands causing damage to the environment during a time when reversing climate change is the top priority right now. No more stealing land illegally from Native Hawaiians.



## Mara Davis

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It's colonizing land that was stolen and want to continue using the land damaging the environment. The land belongs to Native Hawaiians. Military shouldn't be able to keep land when lease is over it goes back to Native Hawaiians. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and

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From: Mara Davis  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Mara Davis  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 12:03:23 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Mara Davis

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: honolulu 96817

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

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## Sasha Davis

I am writing to submit my opposition to the continued leasing of the three O'ahu properties by the US military for training activities. In short, I am recommending that the government proceed with "No Action Alternative" (no retention of State-owned lands after 2029). I am a former resident of O'ahu, a former professor of Environmental Science and Geography in the University of Hawai'i system, and a current researcher specializing on the environmental and social effects of military activities. To keep my comments brief, I want to register my strong opposition to the continued military use of these leased state properties for three major reasons. First, many of these lands were taken for military use under 'emergency' circumstances that have expired long ago. If the intent of the State of Hawai'i or the military had been to use these lands for training in perpetuity this should have been clearly stated when the lands were acquired. At this juncture the lands should be remediated and returned to the state for other uses. Second, the environmental and social effects of the continued use of these properties on the island of O'ahu and its residents - when considered in the context of the cumulative effects of the many other military installations on the island as well - is not adequately emphasized in the scope of this EIS. Finally, my previous experiences examining the closure of military training ranges in places like Kaho'olawe, Vieques (Puerto Rico), Guam, and the U.S. mainland all indicate that when ranges are returned to states (or management is shifted to other federal agencies) training shifts to other sites and military readiness is not affected much (if at all) – despite the dire predictions that military range managers make prior to their closure. In closing, given the substantial environmental and social burdens that residents of O'ahu have shouldered due to the large amount of land that has been tied up in military training ranges since World War II, it is definitely time that these leased lands be returned to the state.

## Arrianna Dawes

Aloha,  
My name is Arrianna Dawes and I live in New York. I am strongly against the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā because it will damage natural resources, disrupt the lives of locals while destroying habits for animals and plants. The army wrongfully leased these lands from the state for one dollar since 1964. So when the lease expires in 2029 the land should be restored to the public.

**From:** [Dominique Dawes](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:43:32 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Arrianna Dawes and I live in New York. I am strongly against the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā because it will damage natural resources, disrupt the lives of locals while destroying habits for animals and plants.

The army wrongfully leased these lands from the state for one dollar since 1964. So when the lease expires in 2029 the land should be restored to the public.

## Ashley De Coligny

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... I share the same concerns raised by Native Hawaiian leaders and community members. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā

already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Ashley De Coligny  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Ashley De Coligny  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:47:51 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Ashley De Coligny
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHOBECAUSE..."	I share the same concerns raised by Native Hawaiian leaders and community members.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for



\$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense

of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands

from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through

mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Julien De Jesus

Aloha, my name is Julien De Jesus and I am a resident of Los Angeles (Tongva land). I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native flora and fauna, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Royce De Jesus

Hi, this is Royce.

Give the Hawaiians their land back. I heavily oppose to the extension of military on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continuously disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. After colonizing, and kidnapping royalty, the least that could've been done was leased the lands yearly for an appropriate amount. I understand that those in charge before did not care for the people of Hawaii but in the 21st century, the people of the US in the mainland have a lot more compassion and concern for the brothers and sisters in Hawaii.

When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. The military has destroyed the native lands enough and disrupted the lives of so many in the last century. There is plenty of vacant land within the mainland where you can build bases and not destroy sacred native land. Stop cheating the native people of Hawaii and their lively hood. The US has done enough damage to the world as it is. GIVE IT BACK TO THEM.

**From:** [Royce D](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations](#); [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Extension  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:35:11 AM

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Give the Hawaiians their land back. I, Royce De Jesus, heavily oppose to the extension of military on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continuously disrupt the lives of the local community.

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Best,  
--  
Royce De Jesus

## Royce De Jesus

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**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Army Extension (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:48:43 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS Comments

**From:** Royce D <rdejesus0520@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:35 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>; USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments <usarmy.wheeler.id-pacific.mbx.nepa-comments1@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Extension

Give the Hawaiians their land back. I, Royce De Jesus, heavily oppose to the extension of military on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continuously disrupt the lives of the local community.

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Best,  
--  
Royce De Jesus

## Manuel Wayne Makahiapo DeCosta Kuloloio

No need to apologize. To Colonel, sir, aloha. My name's Manuel Wayne Makahiapo DeCosta Kuloloio. The last letter of Kuloloyo should have been "a", Kuloloia. The Sea of Kulolioa is known as -- now known as Honolulu Harbor. I was there last night, Colonel, with your two PAO officers. I was there, Kehau, at Leilehua Golf Course. I was the second guy there, by the way. I asked your PAOs if they can put in a phone connection tonight for me, one that still does not own a personal computer for reasons I will not share with you. But, Kehau, you tell Kawika McCabe at G70, if he's still there, everybody who's been a consultant for this project is having it easy. I would love to see their face, yeah, Kehau, in a public setting. I look into their eyes. I see it in the au. Colonel, I have been to every range in the state of Hawai'i -- space, airspace, underwater, surface, with the exception of Makua Valley. The Japanese bombed Hawai'i. My dad was born October 23rd, 1940, at a time we had to wear gas mask. My grandpa converted his imu into a bomb shelter, martial law. The bombing of Kaho'olawe got stopped on October 22nd, 1990, by George Herbert Walker Bush, on my birthday. My dad became the lead of water safety for the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. After the murder, disappearance, or assassination of our brothers James Kimo Mitchell and George Helm. I was part of the cleanup, sir, of Kaho'olawe island. Kehau, you tell Kawika I said you do me one study of any U.S. Armed Forces range in the world that we control that they have ever cleaned it up satisfactorily. I make that challenge to you guys, Colonel; okay? That's why we took Kaho'olawe back as is. It'll never happen again, Kehau. And even if we want to clean it up, the people will say, wow, we need some funding. So unless Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono, Congressman Case, or Congressman Kahele can get billions of dollars to clean this place up, it'll never happen. That's why my heart is sore. Colonel, thank you, U.S. Army for honoring my dad on July 24th in Makena, Maui, at A'awa Bay, our ancestral home, when the U.S. Army brought two individuals carrying a U.S. Army flag, playing taps, honoring him, a veteran who went to Augusta, Georgia, went to use the white bathroom, and they say, hey, boy, get out of this bathroom. He went into the black one. The guy said, hey, boy, get out of this one. Kehau, he was confused, yeah, Kehau? That's what our Hawaiian men went through. Sir, I applaud your efforts. And, Kehau, in closing, I need your help, Colonel. I'm going to call you with Mr. Black and Ms. Bugala. We're going to go see Uncle Tom Lechanko. I heard they're still bombing Lihue. That cannot happen, okay, Kehau? That cannot happen under my watch. I was sent to Vieques to stop the bombing for kauka, and Senator Inouye said do not go. So, Colonel, I salute you. I will come see you soon; okay? Kehau, thank you.

## Manuel Wayne Makahiapo Kuloloio

So, Colonel, sir, your staff was kind and gracious to allow me to phone in. And I did, but I wasn't able to testify. So as an ethics officer for my company, I decided, Kehau, I'm not going to use my company computer on the Zoom, okay, Kehau? So I using my iPhone. In order to testify, I had to pay -- well, I know the T-Mobile in Pearlridge, and I told this sister, hook me up with Zoom on my iPhone. And she did. And I slapped her \$200, Colonel, because tonight's testimony is one of the most important you'll ever hear in Hawaiian history. As a young man, Colonel, I stayed at the home of Uncle Jim Albertini, Na Malu 'Aina Farms, with Marian Kelly and Maivan Lam, when we protested. Yup. Geothermal. Colonel, I cannot turn my head, having bearing witness to have lived at the home, the [REDACTED], Kupikipiki'O of John and Marian Kelly. John, the lead trainer of the U.S. Navy UDT frogmen, the leader of Save Our Surf in Hawai'i. Malama. Yeah. Malama Hawai'i. Malama, yeah, Kalama Valley. Save Mokauea, Sand Island, yeah, Julliard- trained, yeah, all his printing done for Kalahui Hawai'i, Auntie Mililani Trask. I was there. I cleaned all his rollers. Kehau, Group 70, Colonel, I cannot turn my face around. I told Brother Fanene from American Samoa, you looking at a smart Hawaiian, Mr. Fanene. You in Hawai'i nei. To our brothers and sisters who testified tonight from Philippines to Samoa to Puerto Rico, yeah, to Iraq, to Monte Ecuador, to Hunter's Point. I was there. We were there. Kehau, tell Kawika McCabe you show me one range in Hawai'i that they can't clean up with the money, because Kamehameha Schools has a covenant. Make sure you clean them up and give me back. Yeah? Parker Ranch has a covenant that saying if you going use my land, you going give me them back clean. They couldn't even do it for Kaho'olawe, and we still begging for money. It hurts, Colonel. Colonel, don't think you alone. We've dealt with admirals. Before there was PACOM, it was called CINCPAC. When the president of the United States got to come check in to the CINCPAC. That's how powerful it was. To all my brothers and sisters testifying, you talk about La Ho'iho'i Ea. I was there at Thomas Square July 31st, honoring Marian Kelly and Dr. Cruz, Kehau. You know who was there last night at Leilehua Golf Course? Uncle Sparky Rodrigues, Dr. Lynnette Cruz, Auntie Ann Wright, and Brother Kyle Kajihiro, all the quakers. Got your Ph.D. You know first Ph.D. Kyle ever invite me to a dissertation defense, and it was about Kaho'olawe. And my dad gave you the scoops. Colonel, when I get threatened because I asked for an investigation in 1998 for the lack of cleanup of Kaho'olawe and I get threatened, yeah, by the general chief of staff and one Hawaiian -- that's the same anymore. Kehau, I'm ending. I cannot turn my face away. The first La Ho'iho'i Ea had ever been was taken by Marian Kelly, led by Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell, Ka Pakaukau. You know who was there? Kawaipuna Prejean. You know who was there? Uncle Solly Neheo, Independent Free and Nuclear Pacific. You know who was there? Kaleikoa Ka'eo. You know who was there? Makanani Attwood. You know who was there? Auntie Moani Kealoha Akaka. You know who was there? My professor, Dr. Haunani-Kay Trask, that taught us about, yeah. Nubi Wakiango, yeah, Kinoa Atebe, yeah, Richard Brennan. We were there. We cannot turn around anymore. I may suffer. I may lose my clearance, Colonel, for testifying tonight, but I do it as a citizen. Okay. And Auntie Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa Dorton. So, Kehau, I'm listening to all those things be Hawaiians. Put your tenure on the line. Put it on the line. Because enough is enough already. I tired of this circular regeneration economies. Kehau, I love you.... I love you, because you putting yourself there. We need to be there. And we'll be the intermediaries. That's the only way. Colonel, it's about bridging. My family was called traitors, quislings, compradors for bridging with the U.S. Navy. That Kaho'olawe cleanup would have never happened without

Dr. Henry Laululi, Daviona MacGregor, my dad, Neal Allen Proto, Waihea, Auntie Norma Wong, Dennis Dwyer, the best of the best of the best. Kehau?...The colonel needs help. Help him. I will help you. Okay?... A hui hou. (Speaking Hawaiian). God is love, sir. Take care your family. We need you to be healthy, too. A hui hou. Thank you, Kehau.

## Keoni DeFranco

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our

communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Keoni DeFranco <notifications@cognitofrms.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 7:27  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Keoni DeFranco

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Keoni DeFranco

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [defranco.keoni@gmail.com](mailto:defranco.keoni@gmail.com)

I RESIDE IN: Los Angeles, California 90291

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

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## Kate Degman

This land belongs to the Native people of Hawaii

## Matthew Dekneef

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... it's exploitative, outdated, extractive and prolongs an activity and system and power dynamic that does not benefit the native Hawaiian community." Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

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**From:** Matthew Dekneef  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:46  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Matthew Dekneef

Koa Futures

EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

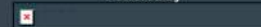
Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Matthew Dekneef
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	mattdekneef@gmail.com
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
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Stella del Valle

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Stella del Valle](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 12:18:06 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

## Bonnie Delgado

Please stop leasing this land to the military

## Travis Delima

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands, no need for your military and weapons of destruction. And while the people of Hawaii are struggling to make ends meet in a 3br home for 1,000,000 the military pays only \$1 you guys should be ashamed of yourselves. Military never cared about the natives here, all they wanted since arriving is our location. Give the land back to the rightful owners and look for a new location somewhere else Aloha💎💎💎💎💎

## Renae DeLucia

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Wahiawā. Extending the lease will allow for more damage to the natural resources and further disrupt the local community. Give this land back to the community!

## Maya Deshpande

I oppose the renewal of the United States army's illegal lease on Hawaiian land.

finn devereux

Hawaii does not want your militarization. You are operating on stolen land that does not belong to you. Native Hawaiians have NOT given permission for military occupation on their lands. Native residents of Hawaii and the land itself are already suffering from the occupation of outsiders, they do not need more. Please listen to the land and the people before the damage is already done.

Jordan Devillanueva

Being a young native hawaiian we were denied access to these places I believe the military should clean these areas up and leave kū'e hawaii me ke aloha

## Noelani DeVincent

"Aloha. My name is Noelani DeVincent. D as in David E, Capital V as in Victor, i n c e n and T as in Tom. And my statement is that I would like to say that I'm a direct lineal descendant of Dane Kaiaamahelenihi of Makua. This process of what you can do need to do to our aina is hewa. I support the no action option for lease renewal, along with mandatory cleanup of all land and waters affected by years of the military training my email address is XXXX@XXXX.XXX. Mahalo "

## Alyssa Devita

‘A‘ole!!!!!!



## Sierra Dew

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because the U.S. military produces more pollution and environmental havoc than up to 140 countries combined. In this time of climate crisis we need solutions and serious mitigation of waste and carbon emissions. This land legally belongs to the Kingdom of Hawai‘i and would be cared for in a way that benefits the residents and environment for many generations to come. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological

and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā,

or Kahuku.

From: [Sierra Dew](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Sierra Dew  
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 15:00:41 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Sierra Dew
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because the U.S. military produces more pollution and environmental havoc than up to 140 countries combined. In this time of climate crisis we need solutions and serious mitigation of waste and carbon emissions. This land legally belongs to the Kingdom of Hawai'i and would be cared for in a way that benefits the residents and environment for many generations to come.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently

held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental



justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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## Kala Diaz

With all the money and resources that the US military has it is wrong that they only pay \$1 and hardly contribute otherwise to the native Hawaiian communities which they occupy while these same natives struggle to afford to live in Hawai'i because of the high cost of living based on the unavailability of land from occupation of foreign and military entities. I Kalachandji Diaz oppose the unfair and unjust state in which the US military occupies Hawaiian lands.

## Mildred Diaz

Aloha. My name is Mildred and I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public and Native Hawaiians.

## Willow Diller

Hello, my name is Willow and I am a resident of Virginia. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely, Willow Diller.

**From:** [Willow Diller](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Leases  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 16:06:14 PM

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Hello, my name is Willow and I am a resident of Virginia. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely, Willow Diller.

## Dylan Dingess

I think it's time for the united states and its military to leave Ha'waii. I do not believe that the United States/ military should be occupying Oahu any longer. The United States military occupies more land in Oahu than actual native Hawaiians. It's time Hawaii belongs to Hawaiians again.

## James Doherty

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The track record has proven these lands have not been managed well in a way that respects the environment or the people. These lands have been devalued by leasing for \$1/parcel, it's insulting. The military has proven it is not a good steward of the land, so why would we want to renew a lease? The people do not want this. It doesn't make sense to me how given the poor track record we already have established, why it would be renewed to the same party. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. Please add any personal comments here. We want these lands to be better utilized for the people in a way that respects the environment and improves the quality and biodiversity of the land. The current occupants have proven that they are not good caretakers and it is insulting to offer them a renewed lease at all, let alone for \$1/parcel.

**From:** James Doherty  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - James Doherty  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 8:31:42 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

## Entry Details

MY NAME IS: James Doherty

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

The track record has proven these lands have not been managed well in a way that respects the environment or the people. These lands have been devalued by leasing for \$1/parcel, it's insulting. The military has proven it is not a good steward of the land, so why would we want to renew a lease? The people do not want this. It doesn't make sense to me how given the poor track record we already have established, why it would be renewed to the same party.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent



RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF  
LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY  
TRAINING PURPOSES.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

We want these lands to be better utilized for the people in a way that respects the environment and improves the quality and biodiversity of the land. The current occupants have proven that they are not good caretakers and it is insulting to offer them a renewed lease at all, let alone for \$1/parcel.

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## Mark Doherty

Aloha, My name is Mark and i am a resident of Virginia. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. This occupation is derived from a historically imperial occupation of Hawaii. Natvie lands should be protected and returned to Native Hawaiians. The island of Hawaii was stolen by the Dole Fruit Company in 1893 and allowed to remain its own independent republic under the protection of the US while it used forced slave labor to build to Dole empire. End impunity for Native Hawaiians and return their lands

## Pete Doktor

Okay. My -- it's really unstable, so I'll keep it out here. Aloha. My name is Pete Doktor, residing in Moanalua, surrounded by military installations in every cardinal direction, no exaggeration.

Rather than going into details of specific reasons to oppose renewing the leases that others have been detailing, I would like to specifically counter arguments given in favor of renewing military occupation on public lands. Living in international reality and the international challenges require international collaboration and solutions. The strategy of nationalism, better known by the code words "national interest", has only deepened division between nations and its peoples by putting self-interest before what's best for all parties. Rather than increased public safety and security, standing armies on such extended leases eventually lead to standoffs due to failure of political leadership to prioritize negotiation and conflict resolutions. What we see today resorts in military threat and tensions. We have repeatedly heard the chorus of concerns about rising influence of China within the Greater Pacific region, yet not one word of concern about the negative impacts of having an American-dominated Pacific, such as when it was turned into a battlefield by U.S., Japan, and other forces scrambling over colonies and supremacy that has yet to yield peace, as we see today. It is not in the interest of Pacific Island peoples to position themselves between the squabbles of nations like the U.S. with a bloody record of military interventions of historical proportions. Having lost its moral authority, the U.S. is in no position to force itself into the position as the world's policemen, especially with its horrific domestic police record, similarly rife with corruption and coverup, unaccountability, and gargantuan budgets that starve other critical service for human needs.

As a former U.S. Army medic, I have spent much time downrange in such field exercises throughout the islands of Hawai'i. It is for that reason I also oppose a carte blanche lease extension, because I have personally witnessed the incredible waste and destruction by such exercises. If they're really concerned about saving lives, it is a no-brainer that the emphasis needs to be on diplomacy rather than militarism. One way to look at the frequency of U.S. military intervention is in its epidemic of troop suicides to see the shallowness of such arguments.

As for the reasons that the military is critical for economic interests, that is the reason posturing creates global tensions, because they openly admit its military expansion is for economic self-interest. On the contrary, militarism jeopardizes global security and economy. As a former soldier of generations of soldiers, the sentiment that the military is good for the economy is an insult to our service. When I hear commanders and politicians boil down that the DOD needs exclusive access to public lands for national security to protect troop lives, what I really hear are code words asserting that America is superior to the sovereignty or well-being of other nations or municipalities and that we will use military force abroad to protect American interests domestically.

Neither argument is convincing to me, given the state of the world today with this privileged position that has brought global instability and tensions that we see today that the U.S. global military empire has actually helped foster, not defuse.... Okay. Wrap it up. So it's in its national interest to preserve precious public lands and resources, not to poison and destroy them. Its national interest is to reduce bloated military budgets and invest in diplomacy.

This is not about being anti-military. It's pro-security. We see it hasn't worked in Iraq and Afghanistan, and from the testimonies tonight, we see it hasn't worked for the nation of Hawai'i either.

I don't want to see any lives unnecessarily lost, whether it's a soldier's or a civilian's. We have more than enough trauma and death and war. We need to rest in peace. Mahalo, Kehau and Anela.

## Tiana Dole

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Enough is enough! The military presence here has proven they already have too much land and they have ruined our 'āina in horrendous ways that will take decades to restore! Stop giving them anymore! I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and

intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'ānae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaioloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'ānae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'ānae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. No more leasing to military and bough already!

From: [Tiana Dole](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Tiana Dole  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 19:27:00 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Tiana Dole

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu 96826

I AM: A resident of O'ahu  
A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

Enough is enough! The military presence here has proven they already have too much land and they have ruined our 'āina in horrendous ways that will take decades to restore! Stop giving them anymore!

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands

serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.



The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water

resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically

examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

No more leasing to military and bough already!

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## Kamuela Don Napoleon

"Hello, my name is Kamuela Don Napoleon, I live in Mililani and I'm a resident of Hawaii. I'm also kanaka maoli. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases and on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage all the natural resources of these areas and destroy natural habitats of kanaka maoli plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964 and when the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. It is unacceptable that the military continues to have these lands when so many kanaka maoli are homeless today. Thank you for listening to our statements. "

## Madison Donaldson

Stop the military occupation of Hawaiian land!

## Emily Donovan

To whom it may concern,

My name is Emily Donovan and I am taking the time to comment all the way from the Berkshires in Massachusetts. I am strongly opposed to extending these military leases on Hawaiian lands.

The military has been unethically leasing acres of public lands and taking them away from locals in Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā since 1964 for ONLY \$1. These lands are meaningful and special, not to be exploited like this. When the lease ends in 2029, these lands should become public, as they always should have been. Continuing these leases would permit further damage and destruction by the military to the areas' natural resources, plants, and animals.

I don't live in Hawaii, but this issue is important enough that I have to express my opposition. It is a beautiful, sacred place that has lost so much already to military presence. This isn't fair to the land or to the people that call Hawaii home.

Please take the time to hear what they have to say, too.

Thank you for listening.

## Jessica dos Santos

To whom it may concern,

I am born and raised in Kahuku, O'ahu, Hawai'i, and still reside in Kahuku as a lifelong resident. Please hear my official testimony asking the U.S. Military to return the lands to the people of Hawai'i and do not renew the leases for the lands in Poamoho, Kahuku, and Makua.

I further ask that the military make a firm commitment to cleaning up all of the toxic pollution created in, on, and around these lands due to the ongoing desecration and exploitation of these stolen Hawaiian lands over the years. It is time that the military takes full responsibility for the damage done to these lands and to do what is right by this place and these people.

The people of this place want food security, climate change resiliency and mitigation, and a return to healthier ecosystems to be able to continue to survive and thrive in Hawai'i. The people do not want the U.S. government to prioritize war for the benefit of the military-industrial complex over real and urgent needs and wants of the people.

Thank you for taking my testimony into consideration. Jessica dos Santos

-- Jessica A. dos Santos Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX



**From:** [Jessica dos Santos](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] OPPOSE the Renewal of Military Leases and Demanding Clean Up of Affected Lands  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 12:33:41 PM

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Thank you for taking my testimony into consideration.  
Jessica dos Santos

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Jessica A. dos Santos  


## Isaiah Douglass

And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 2:4

## Holly Drummond

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on ALL Hawaiian lands, but specifically on Oahu. Any extension on these leases will allow the US military to continue destroying this planet furthering our global climate crisis. In addition they are continually destroying the habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals as well as disturbing the peace of all local Hawaiian communities. Enough is enough. The US military has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 since 1964. Fifty seven dollars does not even begin to compensate the state of Hawaii for the damage done to their land. When the current lease expires in 2029 please vacate the premises of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa and have them completely cleared of all military presence at this time. When leaving please take all military personnel and all equipment located on base with you (vehicles, furniture, computers, fork lifts, air conditioners, etc) the Hawaiian people don't need more of your garbage. Then return all properties to the native Hawaiian people along with a sincere letter of apology for the unjust occupation and abuse of their land for the past 57 years. - Holly Drummond  
NY resident

**From:** Holly Drummond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:12  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu military lease

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on ALL Hawaiian lands, but specifically on Oahu. Any extension on these leases will allow the US military to continue destroying this planet furthering our global climate crisis. In addition they are continually destroying the habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals as well as disturbing the peace of all local Hawaiian communities. Enough is enough. The US military has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 since 1964. Fifty seven dollars does not even begin to compensate the state of Hawaii for the damage done to their land. When the current lease expires in 2029 please vacate the premises of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa and have them completely cleared of all military presence at this time. When leaving please take all military personnel and all equipment located on base with you (vehicles, furniture, computers, fork lifts, air conditioners, etc) the Hawaiian people don't need more of your garbage. Then return all properties to the native Hawaiian people along with a sincere letter of apology for the unjust occupation and abuse of their land for the past 57 years.

- Holly Drummond NY resident

## Jaqueline Duarte

123 years ago U.S. stole Hawaiian Kingdom, lowered their bae Hawai'i, and Invaded their islands with armed military. Stop U.S. leases, leave their sacred wahi pana alone, ENOUGH ALREADY! We demand their land be returned and restored back to them. Please stop the abuse of their home. We won't stop until you stop.  
I stand in solidarity with Hawaiians

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**From:** Jaqueline Duarte [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 15, 2021 8:27  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] PROTECT 'AINA

123 years ago U.S. stole Hawaiian Kingdom, lowered their bae Hawai'i, and Invaded their islands with armed military. Stop U.S. leases, leave their sacred wahi pana alone, ENOUGH ALREADY! We demand their land be returned and restored back to them. Please stop the abuse of their home. We won't stop until you stop.

I stand in solidarity with Hawaiians

## Tara Dubin

It's time for the military to finally vacate the land they stole from Hawaiian people. Give the people back their land! End the violent occupation.

## Kioni Dudley

Okay. I am a non-Hawaiian, but I've been very involved in the sovereign people movement for 40 years. I am the author, co-author, of "A Call for Hawaiian Sovereignty", a book that was published back in 1990.

I just want to say that I support everything people have been saying as a non-Hawaiian. And I want to also say that I don't think that any negotiations of land should be going on with the fake state. All discussion of these lands should be with the Hawaiian people.

We remember that Kaho'olawe was returned to the Hawaiian people. It says it's waiting for some kind of nation to be formed. I believe that will come about in the next year, myself.

I really think that, you know, we ought to be bringing at least OHA into these discussions as the body the discussions go on with. I think that any money that finally is paid for these leases should go to the Hawaiian people directly. And I think that there's just no question about that.

So I just wanted to make that point tonight, that the discussion should be going on with the Hawaiian people and not with the state of Hawai'i.

And I thank you very much. And I know what it's like to go through sitting and listening to all these things that are in opposition, and thank you, Colonel, for your time and effort to do this. Thank you. Aloha.

## Wesley Dugle

Hawaii has enough of the illegal occupation of its islands by the mainland. Go home.

## Malia Duke

As a Native Hawaiian that cannot afford to live on the land with my ohana, it is disgraceful that the US government wants to extend the lease of our lands for their gain without regard of Hawaii the land and it's people. Do better. Listen to Native voices.

## REBEKAH DUNCAN

I am asserting my opposition to the renewal of the US Army's lease of lands on the Islands of Hawaii, including 6,300 acres on Oahu, and the Pohakuloa Training Area on the big island. While I am not a resident of the islands, or native diaspora I have had the great pleasure to witness the sacred beauty of this land. Bearing witness to this hallowed ground I believe, we the people and government of the United States, have a moral obligation to respect the native population's claim and devotion to the sanctity of these lands; as well as an environmental imperative to protect this land for the good of the planet.

## Siobhan Duncan

Aloha - I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on O'ahu. While I currently reside in Massachusetts, my kanaka family throughout the islands has been negatively impacted by the continued military presence and occupation. The damaging impact on resources and habitats that should rightfully belong to locals and be left to support native species is unconscionable. The lease should not be allowed to be renewed, and land should be restored to the public.

## William Duncan

As a native Hawaiian living on the mainland, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku W'ahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources & destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants & animals, & continually disrupt the lives of the local community. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## James Dunn

We have seen time and again the destruction and disregard that the U.S. military causes to our land and waters, contributing to the constant new extinctions of bird species and sea life. Their occupation of this sacred land, including using areas such as Koho'olawe and Western Oahu for targets, is built on stolen land, the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani, and the obliteration of the indigenous Hawaiian empire. The insult added to much injury is that the US Military leases this state-owned land of Wahiawa, Makua and Kahuku for \$1. There is no price one could put on this land, and this lease, ownership, and stewardship should be given back to the people of Hawaii. In the event that this lease is renewed, the US Military must at least compensate the state and people of Hawaii not just adequately, but generously. The US Defense Department's newest budget calls for \$715 billion, and we are clearly no longer spending trillions on the failed war in Afghanistan, so there is absolutely money in the budget. The question is, does the US Military negotiating this lease understand fairness, reciprocity, and responsibility enough to do what's right?

## Taylor Duplantier

There is no reason that the United States & the US army/military should be occupying any land of hawaii! This is beyond unethical and damaging to the true Hawaiian culture and land. This is people home and to come it and take it is absolutely terrible.

## John Dwyer

"My name is john R Dwyer I came to Hawaii. Hawaii in 1964 as a second lieutenant in the 25th division and went to Vietnam twice with the 25th division. I live on the north shore near Turtle Bay and the Ko'olau training areas. So I am I know the areas very well because I train there as an infantryman And I also trained on the Big Island. I would like to have an opportunity to speak at the public scoping meetings, could you please advise how I could do that? My telephone number is XXX-XXX-XXXX and my cell phone number for me, my email number is \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you.  
"



## Patrick Easterling

I call on the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the Chair and Board of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to terminate the lease of 23,000 acres of Hawai'i public trust land at Pōhakuloa Training Area to the U.S. Army. This land was leased for \$1 to the Army in 1964 for a term of 65-years. In violation of the terms of the lease, the Army has damaged native ecosystems, left unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, and other contaminants, and harmed Native Hawaiian cultural sites. Although the lease expires in 2029, the U.S. military is seeking to renew the lease as quickly as possible.

Patrick Easterling  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**From:** [Patrick Easterling](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] statement on planning  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 8:31:51 AM

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I call on the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the Chair and Board of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to terminate the lease of 23,000 acres of Hawai'i public trust land at Pōhakuloa Training Area to the U.S. Army. This land was leased for \$1 to the Army in 1964 for a term of 65-years. In violation of the terms of the lease, the Army has damaged native ecosystems, left unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, and other contaminants, and harmed Native Hawaiian cultural sites. Although the lease expires in 2029, the U.S. military is seeking to renew the lease as quickly as possible.

Patrick Easterling  
Hilo, Hawai'i  
96720

## Jane Eastwood

Once again I hate to see natives priced out when the military has so much land for close to nothing.

## Jamie Echols

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Oahu belongs to its people. The United States has disrespected and damaged Hawaii. Giving the land back to its people instead of being destroyed by the military complex is the bare minimum the United States can do for the Hawaiian Kingdom. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Land back.

**From:** Jamie Echols [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 23:29  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jamie Echols

# Koa Futures

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### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Jamie Echols
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	Oahu belongs to its people. The United States has disrespected and damaged Hawaii. Giving the land back to its people instead of being destroyed by the military complex is the bare minimum the United States can do for the Hawaiian Kingdom.
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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Land back.

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Melissa Edwards

Give land back to the Hawaiian people.

## Jordan Elicker

As a life long resident and a Kanaka Maoli, the United States Military occupation of 6300 acres of crown lands needs to come to an end. The land in question that is being leased at a criminally low rate to the military is legally and historically intended for Native Hawaiians. The sole reason that the State of Hawaii has control over the lands meant for Kanaka, is because of the illegal overthrow and annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii. The fact that lands meant for the people are now being practically given away to a foreign occupier is beyond deplorable. Furthermore, environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

## Jordan Elicker

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

From: Jordan Ellicker  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jordan Ellicker  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 18:27:01 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Jordan Ellicker

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli  
A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential

alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.



## Jones Elizabeth

Please restore these lands to the indigenous people and repay them for the decades of unfair lease cost. I am an American citizen and army veteran. Our shit will catch up to us. Reparations now.



## Jade Elyssa Rivera

I reject the continued occupation of the U.S. army, through the proposed lease renewal, on unceded Hawaiian territory.

## Emmalise Enders

Hello. Today I am emailing to implore and demand the the US military stops trying to renew its lease on 6300 acres of land in Wahiawā, Mākua, and Kahuku. This hold of the land is continued colonialism from when the Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown and taken from its Indigenous peoples. Land must return to its original caretakers.

**From:** [D\\_e](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Let Go of O'ahu  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 7:28:59 AM

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Hello. Today I am emailing to implore and demand the the US military stops trying to renew its lease on 6300 acres of land in Wahiawā, Mākua, and Kahuku. This hold of the land is continued colonialism from when the Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown and taken from its Indigenous peoples. Land must return to its original caretakers.

## Wallace Engberg

This land belongs to Native Hawaiians, it should be returned to their care for their use. To retain and use Native Land for the use of the military only perpetuates the continually oppression of Native Hawaiians on their own land. Return the land to the original ancestors of this land.

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākaua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It's unfair! It's not rocket science. My son is Kanaka Maoli & I have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay rent to live in squalor when these lands are his birthright! Unfair & downright wrong!!! I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warkingarms harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

## Koa Futures

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

MY NAME IS: Vanessa Esprecion

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN:

I AM:

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-  
LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA,  
KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO  
BECAUSE

It's unfair! It's not rocket science. My son is Kanaka Maoli & I have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay rent to live in squalor when these lands are his birthright! Unfair & downright wrong!!!

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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## Sofronio Estores

Okay. I'm a Pearl Harbor survivor. I was in a family that had to evacuate from Fort Kamehameha through Hickam during that bombing. I joined the Army, served 20 years, spent 35 years with the federal service. I witnessed and experienced the Korean War, two held hostage in Vietnam. And working in Europe, I was involved in supporting Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Kosovo, Chernobyl. All of these events were wars. And they were destructive. And they were killing people. I am definitely opposed to continuing any effort to conduct an EIS. We need to stop this nonsense. Hawai'i belongs to the world. I experienced the first Pearl Harbor. If you continue to occupy Hawai'i, you are preparing us for the next Pearl Harbor. And I don't live there in Hawai'i anymore because I don't want to experience the second Pearl Harbor. So it's best that you pack up and leave. You have seven years to clean it up before the leases expire. As a kupuna, I speak for those who are unable to participate in this -- in this event. There are many, many kupunas and elder Hawaiians out there who are unable to participate for a number of reasons. So I speak for them. Their voices need to be heard. Thank you so much for this opportunity to hear my voice. Thank you.

## Jessica Estrada

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases would allow the military to further damage the natural resources of the areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public and local communities.

## Chris Etzkorn

Aloha

Not often there is the opportunity to make history right, however if this rare opportunity is given to you, you should use it. So, please, give back the land to the people it belongs to - choose to make history right.

## Samantha Euston

Hello my name is Samantha Euston and I am a resident of the United States of America. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the islands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further destroy the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of the native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continuously described the lives of the local community. The army has wrongly leased these lands for 1\$ from the state since 1964 and when the leases expired in 2029 the land should be immediately returned to the public.

**From:** [Sammy Euston](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 5:09:11 AM

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Hello my name is Samantha Euston and I am a resident of the United States of America. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the islands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further destroy the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of the native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continuously described the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongly leased these lands for 1\$ from the state since 1964 and when the leases expired in 2029 the land should be immediately returned to the public.

## Malia Evans

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The military has a consistent, decades long, public record of being poor stewards and caretakers of the lands and waters of Hawai‘i. With the advent of technology and virtual training, the exploitation and desecration of the "finite" lands and waters of the Hawaiian archipelago must stop. And they need to be held accountable to clean up their mess! I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O‘ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve

the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Malia Evans  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Malia Evans  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 18:06:33 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Malia Evans

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Hilo, Hawaii 96720

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

The military has a consistent, decades long, public record of being poor stewards and caretakers of the lands and waters of Hawaiʻi. With the advent of technology and virtual training, the exploitation and desecration of the "finite" lands and waters of the Hawaiian archipelago must stop. And they need to be held accountable to clean up their mess!

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the



State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological

and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine

resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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Return O'ahu to Native hands. Retaining these lands under U.S. control is unethical and oppressive.

Jessie Faige

I oppose the Army's request to renew its long-term lease to use thousands of acres of land at three locations on O'ahu- Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. The Army does not have an unquestionable right to use the lands and my understanding is that the Army has not been a good steward of the land. The price of the lease - \$1 total for 65 years use - is offensive and does not reflect the true value of the land.

Mahalo.

## Rose Fairchild

The military during its illegal tenure over this land has utilized this aina for live-fire bombings and other destructive practices destroying sacred Hawaiian sites as well as polluting these unique places. At Makua and across the Islands, the military has proven itself to be incapable of responsible environmental or cultural stewardship. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

## Banner Fanene

Okay. Banner Fanene, resident, Wahiawa, Oahu. Talofa, Colonel Misigoy. Thank you for your U.S. military service. Thank you to all men and women in uniform for your service past and present, including spouses, children, family and friends. As a U.S. Navy military veteran, as the son of a U.S. Marine Corps veteran combatant in Korea and Vietnam, as the father of a Marine Corps vet, four combat tours before the age of 21, I fully appreciate the service and sacrifice of the Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Go Navy, Beat Army. Thank you for these two minutes to give over 10 minutes of remarks. Two points in Hawai'i land leases. One, as apologized in law by former POTUS Bill Clinton in 1993, the U.S. Army should be asking the Kingdom of Hawai'i, not the state of Hawai'i, for the land lease. Two, as the Kingdom of Hawai'i currently has no monarch, I'm assuming that possession is nine-tenths of the law even if that possession is illegal, which it is in this case, the so-called Hawai'i Governor David Ige and the next governors who illegally extend the lease with the U.S. Army. For environmental and political reasons, I support no action alternative and offer a supplement. No action, the lease would expire in 2029, and lease lands would not be retained. Supplement. The U.S. Army in 2029 will negotiate and assign a new land lease with the Kingdom of Hawai'i. To my kanaka 'ohana as a Samoan, your blood-to-blood cousin, (Speaking Samoan), the scene of the crime is your connection point, not self-determining public site. La ho'iho'i ea. Restoration of your mo'i is the answer. In the meantime, no vote, no grumble. So ifua. Thank you and God bless.

## Banner Fanene

Yes. Banner Fanene for the record again. Mahalo. I listened to about an hour last night, so I apologize if my second opportunity to speak tonight is repetitive. While the emotion is moving, I see that half of the emotion is misplaced. If you need someone to hate, then share the hate to Governor Ige and/or the governor that will have this lease extension placed on his desk. The courage needed today in Hawai'i is for all you 300,000 eligible voters who are not registered to vote, for you to register and vote, and for you other 50 percent of registered voters who don't vote, to vote. Otherwise, we will end up with another governor who sign another \$1 lease with the U.S. military. To my kanaka 'ohana, as a Samoan, your blood-to-blood cousin, (speaking Samoan). One, elect a governor who will not sign an extension. And again, to, la ho'iho'i ea. Restore your mo'i so that the land, this 6,300 acres, can be returned to the Kingdom of Hawaiian. In the meantime, no vote, no grumble. Soifua. Thank you, and God bless.

## Lynn Feinerman

Greetings, Aloha, Important to preserve Hawaii in all its beauty. The military never leaves anything, not land nor people, healthy or happy. Please refuse to re-lease or lease any Hawaii land to any military. LF

**From:** [Lynn Feinerman](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Refuse land to the US or any other military  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:41:47 AM

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Greetings, Aloha,

Important to preserve Hawaii in all its beauty. The military never leaves anything, not land nor people, healthy or happy.

Please refuse to re-lease or lease any Hawaii lands to any military.

LF

## Maurie Feldberg

After the shameful treatment of Kaho'olawe by the US Military, and unfinished cleanup, it is unconscionable to allow continued use of the Hawaiian Islands for the proposed activities. In addition, these lands could be better used to reduce the waiting list for Native Hawaiians in search of Homestead lands, as outlined in the century-old Federal Act.



Hank Fergerstrom

Well since I was not given the time to testify on the Military Training lease renewal...Im sharing my tonights testimony here.Article 8 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides that Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to be free from forced assimilation and destruction of culture. In addition, this provision requires that states provide effective mechanisms for prevention and redress of actions that: deprive Indigenous peoples of their integrity as distinct peoples; dispossess Indigenous peoples of land; force population transfers, assimilation or integration; or promote or incite discrimination. This article aims to develop a greater understanding of this novel provision. It investigates the historical development of art 8 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together with the concept and jurisprudence of cultural genocide expressed in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in an effort to determine the scope and content of the right, whether or not it is legally binding and its enforcement. Article 8 should ensure Indigenous peoples are able to use their own languages and protect their historical, cultural and religious heritage and objects in libraries, museums, schools, historical monuments, places of worship or other cultural institutions. In essence, this article protects the right of Indigenous peoples and individuals to live in an environment where they can enjoy their own cultures and where those cultures are able to develop and flourish. The first part of this article outlines the right contained in Article 8. The second part looks at the Declaration in detail, tracing its historical development and the negotiations in relation to Article 8 in each phase of the drafting. The third part has regard to the development of the Genocide Convention and its jurisprudence in relation to cultural genocide. The final part of the article uses these sources to develop a greater understanding of the right in terms of its scope and content, its legal enforceability and its enforcement.Article 8 is particularly relevant for Indigenous peoples living in post-colonial states. In countries such as Australia, where Indigenous people have been, and continue to be, marginalised, Article 8 addresses persistent human rights violations. This article argues that Article 8 is of great significance for Indigenous peoples as it serves as a concrete recognition of their right to be free from forced assimilation or the destruction of their cultures. This freedom should ensure Indigenous peoples are able to live in an environment where they are free to enjoy their own cultures and where those cultures are able to develop and flourish. THE RIGHTArticle 8 provides: 1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;(c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;(d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;(e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

From: Hank Hawaiian  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Army retention of training lands  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 9:06:01 AM

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hank Fergerstrom < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/hank.fergerstrom?\_\_cft\_\_[0]=AZW13BsAsH7DBjzx5GNT054wjL8IB-5SvpfMta6nHs8VzgLpgK66Xmjop9lVbdUbwouetmYPw72jsqte0Y22nhecHu2zVf4huNMzVGcFERJv5DkVrJyay8VUHR3smRVpcao&\_\_tn\_\_=UC%2CP-R >

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## Hank Hanalei Fergerstrom

Okay. Aloha, everyone. My name is Hanalei Fergerstrom. I'm from -- I'm the spokesperson for Na Kapuna Moku O Keawe, which is a kupuna organization from the island of Hawai'i. Because this is such a short read, I'm going to have to go full-on and hit you solid, right where you need to be hit.

First of all, you need to understand that the United States of America has absolutely no authority to assert its jurisdiction in the Hawaiian Islands. Let me say that again. The United States of America has absolutely no authority to assert its jurisdiction in the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Secondly, these lands that you call state-owned lands, that the state does not own any land whatsoever. Those lands are -- those lands are trust lands that are Hawaiian Kingdom government and private lands.

We need to get this understood really, really quick, because you folks seem to think that we can just talk about this. But nobody does anything about it. We've been saying this for years and years.

Again, the United States has absolutely no lawful authority to assert its jurisdiction in the Hawaiian Kingdom, which is what Hawai'i is. It's a kingdom. It is not a state.

Now, the easiest way to get around it, to -- to answer this, is to go look it up yourself. You'll find even in your own congressional records that the United States had no authority to -- to be in Hawai'i in the first place. There was no treaty of annexation. And the Statehood Act was -- was a boxed done deal anyway. It was to get out of the --out of the United Nations Colonization Act.

So what you need to know is that you are not welcome here. You -- you only bring problems to Hawai'i. If you need to go train your troops and all that kind of stuff, you have tons of room up on the mainland. You don't need to bring it way out here.

We are a nation. We are a neutral nation. Now, understand that well, because you as military people do understand the laws of neutrality. Hawaiian Kingdom is a neutral condition under international law. And the international arena is --is watching what's going on here right now, you know. They're watching that you just don't give a damn, what -- what kind of laws you're breaking, either nationally or internationally.

Again, the United States has absolutely no authority to assert its jurisdiction in the Hawaiian Islands, Hawaiian Kingdom. Okay. So I'm going to go ahead. I'm going to end up now. That's what you needed to know, the most important, that you absolutely have no authority to be in the islands whatsoever. And you need to do your research and ask your commanders, because they know.

Okay? Anyway, thank you very much. I will be writing in a bunch more. Thank you very much.

## Hank Hanalei Fergerstrom

Thank you. Anyway, I would like to just add on to what I said before about the military having no lawful authority -- not under their Constitution or under international laws -- has any legal authority to assert their jurisdiction in the Hawaiian Kingdom.

I would also like to clarify some stuff. We're talking about the renewal of state-owned lands. But you're also talking -- you're also not talking about the lands that you're claiming that is owned by the United States that was done through executive order, like through Lyndon B. Johnson; okay?

Before any of those kind of things can take place and have any lawful effect, you have to have a treaty of annexation. You do not have a treaty of annexation for the Hawaiian Kingdom. There is no transfer at all. So you are here illegally. And so all your executive orders from your president all the way down to our governor are all illegal anyway.

Anyway, that's what I wanted to get on now. I got much more coming up, but you need to --you got to do it -- you got to do this correctly. You can't just hear the words and let it go idly by. These words are very well chosen. They are made, they're condensed in such a way where you can put it in sentences and take it back to your higher ups. Your congressional record shows all about how you're illegal in Hawai'i. Your congressional records.

Again, you have no treaty of annexation. Without a treaty of annexation, you have absolutely no lawful authority to be in the Hawaiian Kingdom. You don't have that authorization from your own Constitution, the United States Constitution, or under international laws. Thank you very much.



## Sasha Fernandes

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Sasha Fernandes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 0:18  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Sasha Fernandes

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Sasha Fernandes
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	<p>Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality</p>

acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiioa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the

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## Callista Fernandez

Please don't extend your lease on Hawaiian land the U.S. military has occupied Hawai'i forever and an extended lease would harm the natives and wildlife.

## Anne Fey

Hello,

My name is Anne Fey, and I am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā, which will allow further damage of the natural resources of these areas and disruption of the lives of the local community.

I have a personal connection to this issue in that my grandpa was stationed in Hawaii when he enlisted in the military. I did not know how wrongfully the land was leased, but I do know now that we have an opportunity to change things now. When the leases expire in 2029, the land should absolutely immediately be restored to the public.

Sincerely, Anne Fey

**From:** Anne Fey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:21  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Public opinion: extension of military leases

Hello,

My name is Anne Fey, and I am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā, which will allow further damage of the natural resources of these areas and disruption of the lives of the local community.

I have a personal connection to this issue in that my grandpa was stationed in Hawaii when he enlisted in the military. I did not know how wrongfully the land was leased, but I do know now that we have an opportunity to change things now. When the leases expire in 2029, the land should absolutely immediately be restored to the public.

Sincerely,  
Anne Fey

## Jonathan Fisk

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... the continued leasing of land to the military stands to only cement US colonial rule within Hawai‘i, with the US military representing the looming threat of the violence that might be brought down upon any who desire Hawaiian sovereignty, as the military was weaponized in the overthrow of Queen Lili‘uokalani. Additionally, as an expert in environmental science, it is my professional understanding that the lands must be returned to the descendants of the areas to ensure their restoration & care. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O‘ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan;



military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. State* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. In addition to the reasons supplied above, I also oppose the renewed leasing of lands in Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho to the

military as such an action stands in clear obstruction of the goals and values adopted in Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-65, Hawai'i 2050 sustainability plan.

From: Jonathan Fisk  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jonathan Fisk  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 15:53:21 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Jonathan Fisk

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

the continued leasing of land to the military stands to only cement US colonial rule within Hawai'i, with the US military representing the looming threat of the violence that might be brought down upon any who desire Hawaiian sovereignty, as the military was weaponized in the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani. Additionally, as an expert in environmental science, it is my professional understanding that the lands must be returned to the descendants of the areas to ensure their restoration & care.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized

STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the

general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS

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These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice.



Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

In addition to the reasons supplied above, I also oppose the renewed leasing of lands in Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho to the military as such an action stands in clear obstruction of the goals and values adopted in Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-65, Hawai'i 2050 sustainability plan.



## Lauren Flanagan

Hello,

My name is Lauren Flanagan and I am emailing to say I strongly oppose to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will further disrupt the lives of the local community and harm the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals.

When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be restored to the public.

Thank you,

Lauren Flanagan

**From:** [margerydoe](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii Land  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:24:22 AM

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Hello,

My name is Lauren Flanagan and I am emailing to say I strongly oppose to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will further disrupt the lives of the local community and harm the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals.

When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be restored to the public.

Thank you,

Lauren Flanagan

Elena Floren

Hello,

My name is Elena Floren and I am a resident of Berkeley, California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases would allow the military to further harm the natural resources and sacred lands of Oahu. I demand that these lands be returned to the public immediately and that the lease of Hawaiian land be terminated.

Thank you for your time,

Elena Floren

**From:** Elena Floren [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:09  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I Oppose Military Lease of Hawaiian Land

Hello,

My name is Elena Floren and I am a resident of Berkeley, California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases would allow the military to further harm the natural resources and sacred lands of Oahu. I demand that these lands be returned to the public immediately and that the lease of Hawaiian land be terminated.

Thank you for your time,

Elena Floren

## Kapulei Flores

Aloha, the military has been bombing and destroying our land for years with little to nothing done about the damage created. Places like Red Hill that are destroying and polluting our already fragile ecosystem here as seen with the 100 gallons of fuel that leaked recently from there. The continuous use of our lands throughout the islands just to destroy them while only paying \$1 leases despite the damage caused on multiple levels. These military bases and presence is doing more environmental damage to our islands, resources, and ecosystem than people are willing to admit. It is time the military pays what they are due, take accountability for the mismanagement of our land/resources, and make changes to better their impact on our islands.

## Abbigail Flynn

I strongly oppose the military keeping this land. It should be given back to native Hawaiians, and be cared so native plants, animals and people may enjoy it for years to come.

## Heather Fong

Hawai'i is an illegally occupied land, and the United States Army should not be trying to continue to use these lands. If they do so, they will be causing undue and massive harm to the people (especially those Native and Indigenous to Hawai'i) and the land.

## Raynae Fonoimoana

Let the statistics of our Native Hawaiians speak ... The OVERTHROW of our Monarchy has left emotional, social, economic, and financial scars on our vulnerable Kanaka Ma'oli. We believe a "wrong has been done" .. the US has acknowledged the "broken trust". NOW .. is the time to make it right .. RETURN ALL the Land to our people. NO more military leases in Hawaii!!

## Emily Ford

The land proposed to occupy is rightfully the home of many native Hawaiian people. The fact that the U.S only pays \$1 every year to Hawaii for this land is a great insult to injury. Stop destroying their land.

## Cheyenne Foreman

I am deeply opposed to the military renting land that belongs to the native people of Hawaii. Further occupation will lead to continued destruction of land and delicate ecosystems, as well as the continued disruption of the lives of local communities. Illegal occupation of land and intentional destruction of that land is unconscionable.

## Chris Foster

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

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From: Chris Foster  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Chris Foster  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 15:26:09 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Chris Foster

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

I AM: A resident of O'ahu  
A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential

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## Mallory Foster

To Whom It May Concern,

I learned recently about the Army Training Land Retention O'ahu Scoping project and learned more about the land the military leases and uses on O'ahu. As a military spouse, I would like to raise a few concerns and encourage Army officials to weigh the opinions of Native Hawaiians heavily in the decision-making process.

I have a background in science education, mountain ecology conservation, and geology. I am also a mother, and as mentioned, a army spouse. I respect and honor all of our service members, and I also respect and honor that we must do right by other Americans as they pursue freedom and justice. Holding onto land that is sacred to others despite the decrease in size of the military since the Oahu leases started seems unnecessary. I understand that these areas offer unique training opportunities, yet, they also are unique in their value and sacredness to ecosystems and Hawaiian people.

I saw that a resumption of live fire exercises in the Makua Military Reservation may be considered. This area, in particular, is of great value spiritually and culturally to Native Hawaiians. I would like to suggest that this area not be used for live fire exercises.

Additionally, I appreciate that the Army strives to work with environmental experts and organizations to mitigate adverse affects on the environment, but for the Army to hold such a great portion of the land here on O'ahu is problematic. Military operations cause edge effects and habitat fragmentation that have adverse impacts on wildlife.

Finally, while I hope the Army finds ways to reduce the amount of land used for training and to reduce the land held in these leases, I also would like to see easier access granted to scientists, environmentalists, and Native Hawaiians. Many organizations throughout the islands hold frequent clean up (malama 'aina) days. I think these should also occur on military installations with more frequency - either spearheaded by the Army or in collaboration with local organizations. We have a responsibility to maintain the land.

As a mother, educator, and military spouse, I want to be a good role model showing what it looks like to be a respectful visitor and neighbor when we are stationed at various locations. That is hard here in Hawai'i. In a place where people are so connected to the land, to block access to so many places does not align with my values. There must be ways to have a ready force that shows strength in this region that is more environmentally sustainable and that aligns better with the needs and values of the local populations. I hope the Army officials working on this project take time to read and listen to the voices of all stakeholders and to look for creative solutions using the voices of the people who are so connected to this land we are lucky to use, live, and train on.

Thank you for your time,

~Mallory Foster

## Bayden Fraley

It is extremely disheartening to see the U.S. Military not only occupying but disrespecting important indigenous land. It is unfair to say that the U.S. military protects America if it is not also protecting and respecting the land. I encourage the military to refrain from occupying Oahu land for future military training. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you make the correct decision by giving all land back to the indigenous people of Oahu.

## Sarah Francis

This land that the base is taking and using belong to the Hawaiian people. Due to the demands of over tourism and the increase in living costs the people of Hawaii have received an inappropriate amount of stress. Opening up this land will give back the homes we took from them when the US colonized Hawaii.

## Marisa Franco

It is time for the us military to remove themselves from the sacred land of Hawaii. It is time to stop the raping of the land. It is time to give the land back to the people who have honored it and protected it. The us military is an extractive mechanism that is causing harm all over the world. We have come far away from what it means to be a true protector. A true warrior. I ask you as I stand my many, to get off the islands. Do not renew your lease. Take right action. We cannot repair history, but we can choose the course of liberation for the future.

It is time for the us military to remove themselves from the sacred land of Hawaii. It is time to stop the raping of the land. It is time to give the land back to the people who have honored it and protected it. The us military is an extractive mechanism that is causing harm all over the world. We have come far away from what it means to be a true protector. A true warrior. I ask you as I stand my many, to get off the islands. Do not renew your lease. Take right action. We cannot repair history, but we can choose the course of liberation for the future.

Lauren Frasinelli

Enough of this

Noah Freeman

Vote no on extending the land lease for the US military. Hawai'i is already an illegally occupied territory and we are already killing our planet with pollution. Stop dropping bombs in our sea!

Von meinem iPhone gesendet

**From:** [Noah Freeman](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] O'ahu  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 11:30:12 AM

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Vote no on extending the land lease for the US military. Hawai'i is already an illegally occupied territory and we are already killing our planet with pollution. Stop dropping bombs in our sea!

Von meinem iPhone gesendet

## Reydan Freitas

My name is Reydan and I'm a resident of Arizona. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow for further damage to the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for just \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Forest Frizzell

Aloha, my name is Forest Frizzell and I am a resident of Waimanalo Oahu. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Mahalo,  
Forest

## Sophie Frost

Hello. I am writing because I strongly oppose the US Military's occupation of Native Hawaiian lands, and feel as a citizen of this country that the military should NOT lease land that belongs to indigenous peoples. Please consider my plea to deny the acquisition of a new lease in order to protect Native Hawaiians and their home from further desecration.

Thank you,  
Sophie Frost

## Lesley Gabrielle

Mahalo. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am here today in solidarity, opposing the proposed extension of land leases. An environmental impact statement is an evaluative tool utilized when a proposed action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the environment. Many testifiers today already indicated the significant adverse impact of the proposed land lease extension. I'm here simply to echo those statements. Hawai'i is one of the most densely militarized regions. The military controls more than 200,000 acres, or roughly 5 percent of the land. On this island, the most densely populated, the military controls more than 85,000 acres, which is more than 22 percent of all the land. The environmental impacts include destruction of protected species and ecosystems, as well as contamination by explosives, fuels, solvents, chemical weapons, heavy metals, radioactive substances, and unexploded ordnances. Agricultural lands and cultural sites are destroyed, and as a consequence, farming, fishing, hunting, gathering, and worshiping have been irreparably harmed or completely wiped out in certain areas. Pearl harbor was once one of the most productive aquaculture systems in Hawai'i. Over 36 fishponds were destroyed to build Pearl Harbor Naval Station, which today is one of the most contaminated military sites. And in 2019, the U.S. military dumped over 630,000 pounds of nitrate compounds into the oceans off this island. The extension of land leases continues desecration of the 'aina. The continued military occupation continues to perpetuate displacement of Native Hawaiian people. The dollar price tag is an insult when so many are without suitable housing, with a great majority of those being Native Hawaiian. The military is inherently violent and is violently entitled to land that was never ceded. It is time to clean up and pack out. I support the no action alternative and oppose the extension of the land leases. Mahalo.

## Natalie Gaffney

It is long overdue that we give land back to the native people of Hawaii. The military has no right to occupy this land for the sake of violence, especially for a \$1 lease! In the midst of a climate crisis, we have the obligation to protect the people and the planet and we cannot do so if we withhold the land from her rightful caretakers.



## Sheila Gage

My name is Sheila Gage. I'm born and raised in Wahiawa, surrounded by military bases. Since I was a kid, I've watched Schofield. I've listened to all the helicopters. I've listened to all the bombings, which is next door, which is east range to me. My grandchildren are now listening to it, and I witness fires continuously on Schofield Barracks going further and further up the mountain. I totally oppose this land lease. And I appreciate everybody coming and testifying, and I thank everybody. And I just -- that's all I really want to say. I really just don't want to see any more. Thank you.

## Amanda Gaglio

Hello, my name is Amanda and I am a resident of New Jersey. I strongly oppose the expansion of military on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

## Jonathan Galka

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because...These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs.* Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental

impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

The recovery and recolonization of endemic fauna, to say nothing of Hawaiian peoples, must take precedence. As I comment below, the ecology of O‘ahu is at a critical juncture. Land invertebrates, particularly mollusks, are an ecologically and culturally integral component of Hawaiian ecosystems, with many genera restricted to O‘ahu. Cultural and scientific attention to the genera is returning and increasing, and programs like the Snail Extinction Prevention Program at UH Manoa are working hard to bring back remaining species from the very edge of extinction. Cessation of military occupation at Mākua (where there have been conflicts among military occupants and land mollusks and their ecologists in the recent past), along with Kahuku and Poamoho, is a step in the direction of decreasing habitat patchiness in critical environments. Attending to Malama ‘aina is a legal imperative, as noted above, and nonhuman organisms must be included in such assessments.

**From:** Jonathan Galka <notifications@cognitofirms.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 23:27  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jonathan Galka

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Jonathan Galka
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	<a href="mailto:jgalka@g.harvard.edu">jgalka@g.harvard.edu</a>
I RESIDE IN:	Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHU BECAUSE..."	I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because...
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS

should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and

include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS

should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

The recovery and recolonization of endemic fauna, to say nothing of Hawaiian peoples, must take precedence. As I comment below, the ecology of O'ahu is at a critical juncture. Land invertebrates, particularly mollusks, are an ecologically and culturally integral component of Hawaiian ecosystems, with many genera restricted to O'ahu. Cultural and scientific attention to the genera is returning and increasing, and programs like the Snail Extinction Prevention Program at UH Manoa are working hard to bring back remaining species from the very edge of extinction. Cessation of military occupation at Makua (where there have been conflicts among military occupants and land mollusks and their ecologists in the recent past), along with Kahuku and Poamoho, is a step in the direction of decreasing habitat patchiness in critical environments. Attending to Malama 'aina is a legal imperative, as noted above, and nonhuman organisms must be included in such assessments.

Abigail Garcia

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MILITARY GETTING HAWAII LAND. THE LAND MUST BE  
GIVEN BACK TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS!!!!!!!!!!

**From:** Abigail Garcia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:14  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MILITARY GETTING HAWAII LAND

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MILITARY GETTING HAWAII LAND. THE LAND MUST BE GIVEN  
BACK TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS!!!!!!!!!!

## Diana Garcia

Hello,

My name is Diana Garcia and I am strongly opposed to the extension of leases on Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa as they further the colonization of Native Hawaiians and their land. Leases that were sold for only \$1 on Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā are expiring in 2029 and the US army is already working to retain the land for more military and warfare training. Extending these leases means more bombing, shooting, dropping explosives, and destroying the environment in these communities. I am not surprised by the US military's continual investment in imperial and colonial projects through these leases.

Diana Garcia

## Renee Garcia

I request that the US army end their lease on Oahu, for concerns of continued military colonialism that must end. The US must give this land back to the native Hawaiians and end future training, testing, interacting etc on Hawaiian islands.

## Reem Gawish

The US should not be using and desecrating Native Hawaiian land. The US military should not have more land on Oahu than is given for Native homesteads, not to mention this is terrible for environment of the Hawaiian islands. As a concerned US citizen I do not believe the US military should continue occupying and destroying Native Hawaiian land.

## Marina Ghin

The military has taken enough land of the Hawaiian Islands. Actually more than 10% of Hawaii's entire population is military men and women and 5% of the entire land is Military owned. While Military is needed, the lands of the beautiful Hawaiian islands do not need to be taken away more from the local people. Military bases as is are extremely large. More effort can be put into working on that land before taking more. Several military personnel I have encountered have described bases as "broken down" since so many buildings are old and unused. Please take care of our lands and fix up and use the land you already have before taking more.

## Sergi Gimenez

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The land is not for us to take advantage of, we should be taking care of it instead of using it for war related affairs. The Hawaiians are the true caretakers of this land, not the US Government or military or anybody else.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the

broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.



**From:** Sergi Gimenez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 15:46  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Sergi Gimenez

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Sergi Gimenez
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	The land is not for us to take advantage of, we should be taking care of it instead of using it for war related affairs. The Hawaiians are the true caretakers of this land, not the US Government or military or anybody else.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead

includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the

same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and

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## Hannah Givertz

I believe that the US Army should NOT renew their lease for the Training Land in Hawaii. These lands are native Hawaiian lands and should be returned to the respective peoples. The US Army should also pay reparations to the those peoples for the 65 year contract.

## Kaylan Godfrey

I as a us citizen I oppose the military getting this land.

**From:** [Kavlan Godfrey](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments; Usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.com](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 11:18:32 AM

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I as a us citizen I oppose the military getting this land.

## Brianna Golden

It would be completely unfair to allow the military to continue to take up space in a native land that barely even belongs to us. Native Hawaiians can hear the nature dying around them. Give the land back to them and go somewhere else. Thank you.

## Peter Goldie

Respectfully, I believe the US Army should locate other land for its purposes. Hawai'i was and is home to so many native peoples who deserve their land back. This would be one step toward bringing them the justice they deserve and resourcing them. Failing to do so will cause further harm and is a relic of the colonization of then Kindgom of Hawai'i.

## Kim Goll

Hello,

My name is Kim Goll. I am a resident of Apex, NC. As a United States citizen, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Waihawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. It is time.

Sincerely,  
Kim Goll

**From:** Ane Mone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:55  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Leased Land

Hello,

My name is Kim Goll. I am a resident of Apex, NC. As a United States citizen, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Waihawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. It is time.

Sincerely,

Kim Goll

## Jhiana Gomes

I oppose the renewing of military leases on the Native Hawaiian Lands of Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Poamoho, & Makua. I oppose the renewing of the military leases because: The land is illegally occupied by the United States, therefore the military has no right to set foot on these stolen lands. The land should be returned to the Native Hawaiians whose genealogies can be traced back to these very lands that were wrongfully stolen from their ancestors. It contributes to the desecration of Sacred Native Hawaiian Land by further endangering the 'Āina with their leftover chemicals as well as the trash from their firearms, other weapons, and any other random items the military leaves behind causing further pollution which also harms Hawai'i's endangered endemic Native species of plants and animals who also live on these lands. Which also trickles down to polluting the oceans, its delicate ecosystem and wildlife. It contributes to the displacement of Native Hawaiians while many are homeless, even struggling with high prices of rent and taxes; the military leases thousands of acres for as little as \$1.00 as well as disrespecting Sacred Burial Grounds where iwi kūpuna (ancestral bones) rest, which the military tramples & trains on.

-- Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** Jhiana Gomes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:18  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposing the renewing of military leases

I oppose the renewing of military leases on the Native Hawaiian Lands of Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Poamoho, & Makua.

I oppose the renewing of the military leases because:

1. The land is illegally occupied by the United States, therefore the military has no right to set foot on these stolen lands. The land should be returned to the Native Hawaiians whos genealogies can be traced back to these very lands that were wrongfully stolen from their ancestors.
2. It contributes to the desecration of Sacred Native Hawaiian Land by further endangering the 'Āina with their leftover chemicals as well as the trash from their firearms, other weapons, and any other random items the military leaves behind causing further pollution which also harms Hawai'i's endangered endemic Native species of plants and animals who also live on these lands. Which also trickles down to polluting the oceans, its delicate ecosystem and wildlife.
3. It contributes to the displacement of Native Hawaiians while many are homeless, even struggling with high prices of rent and taxes; the military leases thousands of acres for as little as \$1.00 as well as disrespecting Sacred Burial Grounds where iwi kūpuna (ancestral bones) rest, which the military tramples & trains on.

--  
Sent from Gmail Mobile

## Makanalani Gomes

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Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. The American military have no rightful genealogy to steward this ‘Āina/land/Lifeforce and ancestor. But, also the American military does not want any part in stewardship or concern itself with being in a consensual relationship with Hawai‘i and their people.

**From:** Makanalani Gomes  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 13:21  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Makenalani Gomes

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Makanalani Gomes
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu A Kanaka Maoli
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O‘AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu.



The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

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## Julie Gomez

Aloha,

My name is Julie Gomez, I am a resident of Virginia. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## Keiko Gonzalez

Aloha,

I ask that you not re-lease the lands of Pōhakuloa, Kawaiolo/Poamoho, Kahuku, and Makua. There are potential health risks to the soldiers at and surrounding residents near Pōhakuloa because of any radiation from the depleted uranium remaining there.

Some of these lands are ceded, seized from the Hawaiian Kingdom at the time of the overthrow. In your bombing practices, you are essentially attacking these sacred 'āina. These 'āina need to be returned so they can be rehabilitated.

In Hawaiian thinking, land is our kūpuna, our grandparent. Land is meant to be cared for so that it can care for us back, with food and the things we need for life. Land that you use for military practices is land that is scarred and destroyed and cannot sustain life.

Please do not re-lease these lands but let us care for them once again so that they and the residents of Hawai'i can live. E ola!

Me ke aloha,  
Keiko

## kuu goo

u.s. military presence in Hawai'i has been long unwelcome. disrupting and displacing the Hawaiian from their land and culture and leaving destruction on it's wake. It is long overdue that U.S. military remove it's occupation of the native soil. Despite what has been allowed to occur for decades, the U.S. military actually has NO RIGHT to be occupying any spaces and lands in Hawai'i.

Marshall Gooch

Regarding Pohakuloa, The Army already has leased land at Pohakuloa and should be able to make do with what they have. The land should be returned to the people of Hawaii to be used for recreation, hunting, and conservation. Return would benefit much more people in our state where available land is so precious.

Regarding Makua, Makua is such a beautiful valley and should be available to the people of Hawaii and not for such a small percentage of our population. There are better uses for it instead of military training.

Marshall Gooch

**From:** MARSHALL GOOCH [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 13:46  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] comment on Army's plans to renew land lease

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Marshall Gooch  
marsh217@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:marsh217@gmail.com >

## Lisa Grandinetti

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaioloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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**From:** Lisa Grandinetti <  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 12:05  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Lisa Grandinetti

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Lisa Grandinetti
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	<div></div>
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and

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## Tina Grandinetti

Okay. Sorry. I just wanted to be clear that I'm speaking as an individual, and I want to share that I grew up in Mililani where, like the last speaker said, my house would shake a lot from night fire training.

And I mentioned that because I want to emphasize that those are sounds of war and that when land in Hawai'i is used for military training, it means that 'aina is being used by the occupying government to train to kill other black, brown, and indigenous people around the world.

And that will always be my deepest objection to the military, and the impacts of that can't be measured in any EIS.

And I also want to share that my mother is from Okinawa, where the U.S. military is currently digging up the bones of my ancestors to build another military base on top of a coral reef. And I mention that to remind us that despite this pretend public engagement process and others like it, the U.S. military disregards indigenous people and their land and their ancestors everywhere it goes, from Hawai'i to Oahu to Guam.

It's frustrating, because this EIS is a performance, and everybody here knows it. It reinforces the idea that this is the Army's decision, when in reality, the Army is the lessee, and these lands are held in trust for native lands and the general public.

That means the people should get to decide what's being done with that land and whether it serves us. And it especially means that Hawaiians should get to decide. How does using 'aina for war serve trust beneficiaries? It doesn't.

It just entrenches us deeper in this unhealthy dependence on the U.S. military, which is the largest greenhouse gas emitter on this warming planet, and a complete and honest environmental impact statement would take that dependence into account.

It could talk about the way that military personnel skew our housing market and price local families out of Hawai'i. It could talk about the fact that the military already controls nearly a quarter of all the land on Oahu. It could talk about the fact that military spending makes it impossible to fund critical social programs like education and health care. And it should address the fact that Hawaiians have not only had their lands stolen from them and leased to Army, their occupier, for \$1, but are then forced to provide comments to the lessee instead of the other way around.

I just want to finish by saying that even though you've had this land for 65 years, you are not and never were entitled to it, and retention should not be the starting point for this EIS. We want land back, the mauka, and a demilitarized Hawai'i. Thanks.

## Tina Grandinetti

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

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From: Tina Grandinetti  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Tina Grandinetti  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 21:07:52 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Tina Grandinetti
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu 96816
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu
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## Tina Grandinetti

Sorry. My mic wasn't working. I actually did testify last night, so thanks for the opportunity.

But I just wanted to -- I guess I can't ask the question, but I wanted to -- I wanted to ask if these videos would stay up on your YouTube channel permanently, because they're just so powerful and such a valuable resource for our community. And I just want to urge you not to take them down, so that we can access them. Thanks.

## Dee Green

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawaiʻi: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and

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The consideration for returning these lands along with a "no lease" alternative is of upmost importance. These lands need to be returned for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practices and the well being of Hawaiians and the community. The military has done enough damage without providing any benefit whatsoever to the people of this land. This should be a "no lease extension" and a "return of land" decision. There is no other result that could hold the interest of the environment and the people of this land in the highest regard.

From: Dee Green  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Dee Green  
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021 8:11:50 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Dee Green

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anāe, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu.



The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further

ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of

Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

The consideration for returning these lands along with a “no lease” alternative is of upmost importance. These lands need to be returned for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practices and the well being of Hawaiians and the community. The military has done enough damage without providing any benefit whatsoever to the people of this land. This should be a “no lease extension” and a “return of land” decision. There is no other result that could hold the interest of the environment and the people of this land in the highest regard.

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## Donjai Green

Aloha,

My name is Donjai and I am a resident of Illinois. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leads expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Tyler Greenhill

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Hawaiian land, 'āina, belongs in Hawaiian hands and stewardship. Militarism is a scourge, destroying lands, bodies, the climate, peace, and everyone's future all for the facilitation of wealth flows to those who profit from colonial hegemony. Human history has conceived of few things if any more ignorant, harmful, and hateful than militarism. The sooner we can rid ourselves, especially indigenous lands, of this scourge, the sooner we might be able to build an extant future. Cheers! I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan;

military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaioloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. The US Military murdered my ancestors, too. Love to all survivors of Amerikkkan Empire.

From: Tyler Greenhill  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Tyler Greenhill  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:44:36 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Tyler Greenhill

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

Hawaiian land, 'āina, belongs in Hawaiian hands and stewardship. Militarism is a scourge, destroying lands, bodies, the climate, peace, and everyone's future all for the facilitation of wealth flows to those who profit from colonial hegemony. Human history has conceived of few things if any more ignorant, harmful, and hateful than militarism. The sooner we can rid ourselves, especially indigenous lands, of this scourge, the sooner we might be able to build an extant future. Cheers!

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized

STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the



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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
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Love to all survivors of Amerikkkan Empire.

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I-678

Zoey Greer

give land back to native hawaiiians. get the us military out of their lands!

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**From:** Greer, Zoey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:24  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]

give land back to native hawaiiians. get the us military out of their lands!

## Regina Gregory

The United States has plenty of land where training can be conducted, without using Hawai'i's precious resources. Instead of "retaining" these lands, the Army should be planning how to clean up before 2029. These lands are needed for other purposes, e.g., agriculture and renewable energy. Please consider these opportunity costs. The shaky foundation of U.S. occupation should also be considered.

## Regina Gregory

PLEASE do not renew the US military land leases!

**From:** [Regina Gregory](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] military leases  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 10:02:43 AM

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PLEASE do not renew the US military land leases!

## Bob Gregory

The US military has degraded land that it has taken into its possession - with lead, toxins, du,PFAS, and other chemical, biological, heavy metal, and radioactive contaminants, repeatedly, consistently, and pervasively. The US military should not be permitted to destroy the environment with the motto "we destroyed the village to save it" because the military does not save anything, only destroys. Time to end the US military domination of the world, and of Hawai'i, and of the people of the world. I am opposed to military leases of Hawaiian land . . .

-- "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Robert F. Kennedy Capetown, June 6th 1966  
Pacific still means peace, bob gregory



**From:** Robert Gregory [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 12:03  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No to lease renewal of Hawai'ian land to the US military

The US military has degraded land that it has taken into its possession - with lead, toxins, du, PFAS, and other chemical, biological, heavy metal, and radioactive contaminants, repeatedly, consistently, and pervasively. The US military should not be permitted to destroy the environment with the motto "we destroyed the village to save it" because the military does not save anything, only destroys. Time to end the US military domination of the world, and of Hawai'i, and of the people of the world. I am opposed to military leases of Hawaiian land . . .

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Robert F. Kennedy  
Capetown, June 6th 1966

Pacific still means peace,

bob gregory

## Christopher Greiser

"Aloha. My name is Christopher Greiser calling about the impact statement for Pohakuloa military base which sits on the ahupuaa. Mauna Kea. The Golden Capstone ahupuaa. Ancient Hawaii is a religion. You sit on one of the most spiritual places on this planet. The ahupuaa where you are on is the water table of the world. Why are you destroying it? Your entrances to the cave Mauna Kea mountain, why do you have access to? What are you doing inside of it? Mauna Kea is the temple of the world. Pangea is one continent, remember? That mountain when the tectonic plates were positioned That mountain is the mountain of the Lord. It is Mount Zion. Why are you there. Why are you desecrating it through an illegal occupation, you do not belong. You're destroying it and you destroy the water, you will destroy this world. Why are you there? The entrance. The tunnels. The roads underneath. What are you doing? Why are you there? Through greed. Through war. This is first amendment line. This is a First Amendment border. You are in violation of everything. You are on Mount Zion, and you need to pack up and leave. Right now. "

## Cameron Grimm

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Cameron Grimm  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Cameron Grimm  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 17:44:14 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Cameron Grimm

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

I AM: A resident of O'ahu  
A Kanaka Maoli

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential

alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people".



Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological

ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the

affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Scott Grinsell

I am strongly opposed to the Army's continued use of this land. There are many other places where the US Army can conduct training exercises. This land should be returned to the native peoples of Oahu. US military land on Oahu greatly outnumbered native lands on the island. These lands should be returned.

## Leanne Grossman

I oppose the Hawaii Army Command re-leasing Hawaiian territory for training. You are occupying some of the most beautiful natural places on the planet and the army is a huge contributor to global warming. You are not even paying to lease it. That's outrageous. That land belongs to Hawaiians. Give it back!

## Yuejia Gu

I am against the military continuing to utilize the land on O'ahu island for training. This training is harmful to the surrounding communities as well as the fragile ecosystem of Hawaii.

# Taylor Guasta

Aloha,  
My name is Taylor Guasta, I am a citizen of Glastonbury Connecticut. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.  
An extension of these leases would allow the military to further Damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying the natural habitats of Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 per year since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.  
Thank you,-Taylor Guasta

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**From:** Taylor Guasta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:04  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to military lease in Hawaii

Aloha,  
  
My name is Taylor Guasta, I am a citizen of Glastonbury Connecticut. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.  
  
An extension of these leases would allow the military to further Damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying the natural habitats of Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
  
The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 per year since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.  
  
Thank you,  
-Taylor Guasta

## Leila Guevera

Aloha my name is Leila and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually distrust the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land be immediately restored to the public.

## Shruti Gumate

My name is Shruti & I am a resident of Michigan. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community and is a downright invasion of the sacred lands of Hawaii and it's Native peoples. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.



David Gurrola

Aloha,  
My name is David Gurrola, and I am of resident of the United States of America. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.  
Thank you for your time,  
David Gurrola

**From:** [Toby Gurrola](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Leases on Hawaii  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:28:01 AM

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Aloha,  
  
My name is David Gurrola, and I am of resident of the United States of America. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.  
  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
  
The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.  
  
Thank you for your time,  
  
David Gurrola

## Dana (Mae) Ha

My name is Mae and I have been a resident of Oahu for a long time. I'd like to say that I am against the continuation of the military leases on Mākua, Kahuku and Wahiawā. I believe this will harm the ecosystem and the resources we have on this island. Hawaiians are continually displaced from their own land if this lease gets an extension. The army has wrongfully leased the state for a \$1 since 1964, when the lease expires in 2029, this land should belong back to the public, back to the Hawaiians.

## Carolyn Hadfield

I am writing this to demand an end to the military leases at Kahuku, Poamoho, and Makua so that a proper cleanup can begin.

I refuse to remain silent as the U.S. Army continues its destruction of Hawai'i's lands in order to kill people living in other countries. This training does not contribute to the safety of Hawai'i's lands or people. Lands previously leased by the Army are toxic and/or rendered unsafe due to live-fire training and bombing. To allow the U.S. Army to renew the leases on O'ahu training sites would further desecrate the land and would signal the Army's disrespect for Hawai'i's indigenous people and, indeed, all people living in Hawai'i.

No amount of lease rent can compensate the people of Hawai'i for the right to continue to destroy the land. The only just action you can take is to clean up the land and return it to the people.

**From:** [Carolyn Hadfield](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army proposal to renew Oahu leases  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 9:28:59 AM

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I am writing this to demand an end to the military leases at Kahuku, Poamoho, and Makua so that a proper cleanup can begin.

I refuse to remain silent as the U.S. Army continues its destruction of Hawai'i's lands in order to kill people living in other countries. This training does not contribute to the safety of Hawai'i's lands or people. Lands previously leased by the Army are toxic and/or rendered unsafe due to live-fire training and bombing. To allow the U.S. Army to renew the leases on O'ahu training sites would further desecrate the land and would signal the Army's disrespect for Hawai'i's indigenous people and, indeed, all people living in Hawai'i.

No amount of lease rent can compensate the people of Hawai'i for the right to continue to destroy the land. The only just action you can take is to clean up the land and return it to the people.

Carolyn A. Hadfield  
Resident of Honolulu

## Michael Hadfield

To: US ArmyFrom: Dr. Michael G. Hadfield  
Re: renewal of leases on Oahu lands.

I am a biological scientist who has documented and studied endangered species in Makua Valley, Schofield Barracks West Range and Kahuku Training area for more than 40 years. I can testify that the Army's activities destroy federally listed Endangered Species in each of these areas. In Makua Valley are found endangered birds, tree snails and plants. Army firing the valley burned the trees where the snails lived, destroyed endangered plants and the habitat for the birds. The same is true for Schofield West Range. These plants and animals do not come back when the Army leaves. The native forest cannot restore itself. Hawaii is known as the Endangered Species Capital of the world in great part due to the destructive 'training activities' of the U.S. military. For these reasons, the leases should never be renewed.

**From:** [Michael Hadfield](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Leases should not be renewed  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 10:31:38 AM

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To: US Army  
From: Dr. Michael G. Hadfield

Re: renewal of leases on Oahu lands.

I am a biological scientist who has documented and studied endangered species in Makua Valley, Schofield Barracks West Range and Kahuku Training area for more than 40 years. I can testify that the Army's activities destroy federally listed Endangered Species in each of these areas. In Makua Valley are found endangered birds, tree snails and plants. Army firing the valley burned the trees where the snails lived, destroyed endangered plants and the habitat for the birds. The same is true for Schofield West Range. These plants and animals do not come back when the Army leaves. The native forest cannot restore itself. Hawaii is known as the Endangered Species Capital of the world in great part due to the destructive 'training activities' of the U.S. military. For these reasons, the leases should never be renewed.

## Catherine Hage

Aloha to whom it may concern, I am a licensed clinical social worker, living in Makaha. Please return sacred Makua valley to Hawaiian/civilian dominion, and protect it from further environmental degradation from military practices. This land belongs to the Hawaiian people. The health of the land is critical for the health of all of us who share this island. Mahalo nui loa for your kokua and consideration!Catherine Hage, LCSW(XXX) XXX-XXXXXXXX@XXX.com

**From:** [catherine.hage](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] please return Makua to the Hawaiian people  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 12:49:07 PM

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Aloha to whom it may concern,

I am a licensed clinical social worker, living in Makaha. Please return sacred Makua valley to Hawaiian/civilian dominion, and protect it from further environmental degradation from military practices. This land belongs to the Hawaiian people. The health of the land is critical for the health of allof us who share this island.

Mahalo nui loa for your kokua and consideration!

Catherine Hage, LCSW

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Michael Hahn

Ultimately disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue.

AS RESIDENTS of Hawaii, I think we should want to be known as an area of peace and dialogue using the Hawaiian technique of "ho'oponopono" — rather than as a base for projecting the U.S. propensity for killing over using diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries.

Let's reduce the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii by refusing to re-lease 30,000 acres currently used by the U.S. military.

## Jessica Halpin

Aloha,

My name is Jessica and I am a resident of Arizona. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Tom Halpin

There are military leases going on in sacred areas of the island Hawai'i. It is heartbreaking to see the land of the native Hawai'ians still being destroyed even after they've been through so much devastation throughout the decades. You must listen to the voices of the natives when they are pleading with you to not disturb their sacred land. Go put your military establishments elsewhere, there are plenty of other places you can. It amazes me how heartless some people truly can be. Compassion and kindness are the foundations for human life and the fact that you have none shows you are not a human, but a monster. These are real people with a real history and real lives, listen to them and hear their voices. The island of Hawai'i must be protected and you must help contribute to that protection.

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**From:** Tom Halpin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 16:37  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Leases In Hawai'i

There are military leases going on in sacred areas of the island Hawai'i. It is heartbreaking to see the land of the native Hawai'ians still being destroyed even after they've been through so much devastation throughout the decades. You must listen to the voices of the natives when they are pleading with you to not disturb their sacred land. Go put your military establishments elsewhere, there are plenty of other places you can. It amazes me how heartless some people truly can be. Compassion and kindness are the foundations for human life and the fact that you have none shows you are not a human, but a monster. These are real people with a real history and real lives, listen to them and hear their voices. The island of Hawai'i must be protected and you must help contribute to that protection.

## Shelley Hamalian

"Hi. Aloha. My name is Shelley [Hamalian] and I'm a resident of Lafayette, California. And I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of Hawaiian plants and animals. And continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public, please. Thank you for listening. Bye bye. "

Karl Hamann

Please refuse to re-lease the lands desired by the US military. Thank you! Aloha!

**From:** [Karl Hamann](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] US Military land lease.  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 3:53:48 AM

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Please refuse to re-lease the lands desired by the US military. Thank you! Aloha!



## Joseph Han

My name is Joseph Han, and I am a resident of O'ahu currently living in Kalihi. I have lived on Native Hawaiian land for over twenty-five years and recieved my Ph.D. in English from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes.

As the US military continues to occupy the Korean peninsula, the Korean people continue living under the legacy of division and the ongoing Korean War, which has not formally ended. The US remains committed to sanctioning, vilifying, and antagonizing North Korea. Occupying and using Native Hawaiian lands for military testing and training undermines improving relations between the US/South Korea/North Korea and the possibility of a peace agreement, which would end the 70-year state of war and recognize that wartime rights to use force have ended. Returning these lands to Kānaka Maoli is a step toward genuine security, not security predicated on the harm that is perpetuated against 'āina, Native Hawaiians, and the climate at large.

Returning these lands, and the US military taking responsibility for the harm it's caused, is paramount to a just and livable future. As a Korean living in Hawai'i with familial ties to North Korea, I am furious that both Kahuku and Kaua'i continue to be considered for a "Homeland Defense Radar" with a price tag of \$1.9 billion in the name of "defense" from ballistic missile threats from North Korea when such a measure is primarily preemptive, and for-profit, from a threat largely imagined, proven false in early 2018, and propagated since the "war on terror" and Bush proclaiming North Korea as part of an "axis of evil." I oppose the US military's presence in Hawai'i in the name of such defense, when a peace agreement to end the Korean War would establish the basic conditions for diplomatic relations that would enable more effective engagement on denuclearization. A peace agreement is in the national security interests of the US-South Korea alliance. We have seen that the longstanding emerging threat to the world and a sustainable future is in fact the US military, one of the largest climate polluters in history.

Kānaka Maoli are being alienated from their land; the Korean people are still separated. I am furious that these lands are being used in such a way that harms both Kānaka Maoli and my people. I carry with me the wishes of my people, what my ancestors have fought and died for: that Korea one day be reunified. For that wish to be realized, the US military must return the lands it has exploited under the pretense of defense—when the US military's occupation of land, in both Hawai'i and Korea, only serves to perpetuate violence and itself.

## Rachael Han

I'm a resident of Pālolo, and I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. The extension of these leases allows for further damage of the natural and cultural resources in the area, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. Let the land be and heal itself. Doesn't the military already have too much land already in the Hawaiian islands? Enough is enough, especially if you're just going to pay \$1. The land should be restored back to the public/in the rightful hands of kanaka.

## Christina Hang

The Army has damaged native ecosystems and harmed Native Hawaiian cultural sites. The ongoing pollution, abuse and occupation of this land needs to end. The people of this land do not need US military presence or tourism to survive. I strongly oppose the renewal of this lease.

## Christina Hang

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the Army's preparation of an EIS for Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu, I would like to comment that I believe that whatever findings are rendered for this statement will be grossly negligent of the health of the land and community.

The Army has already damaged native ecosystems and harmed Native Hawaiian cultural sites throughout the decades in which this lease has existed. The ongoing pollution, abuse, and occupation of this land needs to end. The people of this land do not need US military presence or tourism to survive. Whatever efforts the Army will take to make a positive impact on O'ahu will not outweigh the damage that has already been done, which will continue to be done if military use remains there. I strongly oppose the renewal of this lease.

V/R,

Christina Hang

**From:** [Christina Hang](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Public Comment Re: Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS - Scoping  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:16:49 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the Army's preparation of an EIS for Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaioloa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu, I would like to comment that I believe that whatever findings are rendered for this statement will be grossly negligent of the health of the land and community.

The Army has already damaged native ecosystems and harmed Native Hawaiian cultural sites throughout the decades in which this lease has existed. The ongoing pollution, abuse, and occupation of this land needs to end. The people of this land do not need US military presence or tourism to survive. Whatever efforts the Army will take to make a positive impact on O'ahu will not outweigh the damage that has already been done, which will continue to be done if military use remains there. I strongly oppose the renewal of this lease.

V/R,

Christina Hang

Paige Hansen

The US military's illegal occupation of O'ahu is damaging to the island and its people. The land should be given back to the native Hawaiians.

## Chloe Hartwell

Okay. Thank you. Aloha kakou. My name is Chloe Hartwell, and I'm a resident of Wailupe Valley. I strongly oppose the extension of all military leases in Hawai'i.

In the June "Talk Story", a question was posed asking what specific public benefits would be provided by the Public Trust Lands if a new lease is negotiated. To echo Mr. Frankel, I'm not sure how bombing the land provides benefits to the public.

Land resource, cultural site and habitat destruction justified by a \$4 million commitment to environmental work is untenable. That is 0.105 percent of the Army's 2020 direct annual spending in Hawai'i.

Colonel Misigoy stated that we would trusting fellow American citizens in this process. There is a historical precedent of the U.S. failing to uphold leases and complete restoration work.

When the federal government took over Kaho'olawe in the '50s, it agreed to return the land to the condition of suitable habitation. I went to Kaho'olawe a couple of years after the U.S. Navy had had nearly a decade to clear ordinances and complete environmental restoration. We stepped past unexploded bombs which remain after two more decades of cleanup work. Kaho'olawe was bombed for 50 years. The impact of extended leases could take generations to heal, if ever. Though it is not legally binding, the U.S.-supported U.N. declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples establishes free, prior, and informed consent. This is embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

The colonel led with the Pacific's importance to our national security for the readiness of the Joint Force. You are asking dispossessed indigenous people from an internationally recognized independent nation to continue to host training grounds to protect a country that stole that very land without consent or compensation per the apology resolution, land legally designated for their benefit, \$1 for 65 years. That is indefensible. Ho'iho'i "aina. Ho'iho'i ea. Mahalo.

## Kate Haupt

Aloha, I am Kate Haupt an Ohio Constituent discussing the occupation lease of the military in Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extensions of the military leases on Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. an extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Savannah Hawkins

I am adamantly opposed to renewing this lease because in 5,000 years not one problem has ever been solved by fighting. Besides the noise pollution and enviromental degradation caused by this immature approach to problems is the fact that we don't need to waste more money on this when there are so many more important pressing problems like, by being homeless, starving to death, our crumbling bridges and roads, and the mess caused by covid.  
Do not renew this lease.

## Alan Hayashi

My name is Alan Hayashi and I was born in Hawaii and have been a citizen of the USA and Hawaii for 83 years.

I strongly support the "responsible" presence of the military in Hawaii. I also strongly support the renewal of the leases of land necessary for military training on land, sea, and air.

However, I do feel the lease value of \$1.00 for 65 years should be renegotiated to some "fair" value, taking into account the value of the military to Hawaii in terms of economic, defense, and HADAR capability presence. Until and unless the leases are perceived as "fair value" by the general population, the military will be subject of constant citizen unrest.

I wish the military well in this effort to ensure a sustainable well trained military force for the USA and Hawaii. V/R Alan S. Hayashi

## Sean Hayworth

I oppose the retention and continued military occupation of unlawfully acquired Hawaiian lands especially Makua.

Makua means parent, and you literally have our family held hostage. Deoccupy all of Hawaii and allow native Hawaiians (as described in public law 103-150), to live on their own lands.

## Jamie Hearn

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O‘ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

From: Jamie Hearn  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jamie Hearn  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:01:13 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Jamie Hearn

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Aiea, Hawaii 96701

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We

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August 22, 2021  
Strong Opposition

Nainoa Heaston

**STRONG OPPOSITION:**

The military has made detrimental impacts to Hawaiian lands including the bombing and desecration of Makua Valley, Pohakuloa, Kahoolawe and so much more. The military has ignored the voices from the Native Hawaiian community since their illegal occupation of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893. Each year, over 60,000 individuals leave Hawaii due to rising housing costs and costs of living. Homeowners in Hawaii pay \$800,000 or more to have 0.02 acres of land. The military leases Hawaiian lands for a single dollar. In addition, the military occupies over 20 percent of the land on Oahu which accounts for over 80,000 acres. The United States government has apologized in 1993 for the overthrow, yet the military continues to act in ways that perpetuate the colonization and degradation of Native Hawaiian communities throughout Hawaii.

The US military has not met the standards of what it takes to malama aina. They have not been able to support the Native Hawaiian community nor right their wrongdoings. For the reasons above and MANY more, I strongly oppose the continued leasing of Hawaiian lands to the United States military.

To Whom It May Concern,

The military has made detrimental impacts to Hawaiian lands including the bombing and desecration of Makua Valley, Pohakuloa, Kahoolawe and so much more. The military has ignored the voices from the Native Hawaiian community since their illegal occupation of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893. Each year, over 60,000 individuals leave Hawaii due to rising housing costs and costs of living. Homeowners in Hawaii pay \$800,000 or more to have 0.02 acres of land. The military leases Hawaiian lands for a single dollar. In addition, the military occupies over 20 percent of the land on Oahu which accounts for over 80,000 acres. The United States government has apologized in 1993 for the overthrow, yet the military continues to act in ways that perpetuate the colonization and degradation of Native Hawaiian communities throughout Hawaii.

The US military has not met the standards of what it takes to malama aina. They have not been able to support the Native Hawaiian community nor right their wrongdoings. For the reasons above and MANY more, I strongly oppose the continued leasing of Hawaiian lands to the United States military.

Mahalo,

Nainoa Heaston



## Shannon Hennessey

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. As a Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) woman, I have a genealogical connection to this ‘āina of Hawai‘i, generally. While some Kanaka can specify which ‘āina they are connected to, many of whom are likely connected to the regions being affected, there are many Kanaka who, like me, can not specify. We don’t know. Why? Because of U.S. military occupation of our ‘āina for warmaking like this. We have been displaced and alienated from our ‘āina. This not only hurts the environment, it hurts our communities. Please do your part and stop this.

**From:** Shannon Hennessey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:26  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Shannon Hennessey

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Shannon Hennessey
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu.

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In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

As a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) woman, I have a genealogical connection to this 'āina of Hawai'i, generally. While some Kanaka can specify which 'āina they are connected to, many of whom are likely connected to the regions being affected, there are many Kanaka who, like me, cannot specify. We don't know. Why? Because of U.S. military occupation of our 'āina for warmaking like this. We have been displaced and alienated from our 'āina. This not only hurts the environment, it hurts our communities. Please do your part and stop this.

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## Shannon Hennessy

"Aloha. My name is Shannon Hennessy, and I'm a resident of Niu Valley I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural inhabitants of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 only \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Military has been there for too long. And it's done too much damage. To both the local ecosystem and to the local people. This is not pono. This is hewa. This is terrible. And it needs to change. This is from one Native Hawaiian who speaks for many Native Hawaiians who you will hear in your voicemails. so If you, if you say you're going to listen to us at all if you say you're going to do the right thing at all by the Environmental Impact Statement, Please listen to us, please stop this. mahalo

## Kyara Heredia

As a citizen of the United States I do not support the army releasing Hawaiian land. They can practice their drills else where and where it's legal for them to be. They need to leave Hawaii alone after constantly abusing the land and it's people for decades. Give the land back to the rightful owners, the indigenous and citizens of Hawaii.

## Sarah Heritage

Aloha,

My name is Sarah Heritage and I am a resident of Evansville, WI. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Amber Herzog Lyman

I DO NOT support renewing the US Army lease of Hawaiian lands on the island of O'ahu. The limited availability of natural resources on an island of this size does not support the extended presence of US troops. Continued occupation of this land places an environmental burden on the fragile island ecosystem through damages of overland transportation and ocean-bound shipping due to requirements to provide mainland resources to island-stationed troops. US Army occupation channels Hawaiian resources, including water and power, away from native Hawaiians and Hawaiian residents, and the advent of modern weapons no longer requires a troop presence on O'ahu to maintain US security from foreign enemies. Please DO NOT further damage the fragility of our native Hawaiian ecosystems for the sake of military control. Our survival is no longer based on "fighting off foreign invaders," it is based on protecting our natural world and indigenous identity in a way that secures safe and abundant food, water and care for our farms, homes and people.

## Nathan Hester

As a Native Hawaiian, I would like to submit that "NO ACTION" be taken and the leases be allowed to expire in 2029.

These lands hold significant cultural importance to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii. Sadly, the US military has broken promises and lost trust with the Hawaiian people by leaving their messes for others to clean up, like the once beautiful and thriving island of Kaho'olawe. Kaho'olawe is now a dangerous minefield of unexploded ordinances from the US military's drills, for example, Operation "Sailor Hat", where 500-tons of dynamite was detonated on the southern tip of the island.

We do not trust the US Military to use our ancient and respect-deserving land as by history the US Military has only spat in our faces and decimated our land with no consultation or repercussions.

The deep love and connection to the lands, Aloha 'Āina, is central to the Native Hawaiian being, cosmology, and culture. Hawaii is comprised of a group of a small islands with limited resources that were expertly managed by our ancestors for hundreds of years. The US government must do the difficult work of relocating these training grounds elsewhere and begin the process of cleaning up and restoring the land. Surely the military can find an appropriate venue for training facilities in the 1.9 billion acres of land which comprises the contiguous 48 states. It is time for the US government to recognize that it has a responsibility to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii to restore and return the lands which were taken illegally.

## Sherry Hester

As a Native Hawaiian, I would like to submit that "NO ACTION" be taken and the leases be allowed to expire in 2029. These lands hold significant cultural importance to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii. The deep love and connection to the lands, Aloha 'Āina, is central to the Native Hawaiian being, cosmology, and culture. Hawaii is comprised of a group of a small islands with limited resources that were expertly managed by our ancestors for hundreds of years. The US government must do the difficult work of relocating these training grounds elsewhere and begin the process of cleaning up and restoring the land. Surely the military can find an appropriate venue for training facilities in the 1.9 billion acres of land which comprises the contiguous 48 states. It is time for the US government to recognize that it has a responsibility to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii to restore and return the lands which were taken illegally.



## Risa Higa

I am highly concerned if the US military has been contaminating land and water. I request to return the land to Native Hawaiian people.

## Douglas High

My name is Douglas High and I am writing to ask that the United States Government give up their leases on the island of O'ahu and return them to the people of Hawai'i.

I was not born in these islands - as the fast majority of the US Military personnel. I came as a visitor and fell in love and have been graciously accepted by the people and place that I am now fortunate enough to call home. After graduating from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I accepted a teaching position on the West Side of O'ahu and spent three years living and working in the community of Makāha. As an avid body surfer, I spent countless mornings, evenings, and full weekends at the shoreline of Mākua Valley, called "Makua Military Reservation" by the occupying government. I have never once taken issue with not being able to go into the valley and explore its lush walls - it may not be for me, I do not know. But I do know that the intent of that valley is NOT for a training ground of an occupying military to practice, "drill" and poison the land AND sea with ballistics and whatever else may come with them.

This valley, along with all of the other mentioned lands, need to be protected and returned to the people of Hawai'i to care for it in the ways of the kūpuna. 'Āina is such a limited resource in a chain of islands. How unfair and cruel it is to continue to use and abuse it in the face of the people who know how this 'āina fed their ancestors - as so many struggle in their own ways, in their own home? How cruel is it that a government which has everything it could imagine, continues to take and destroy one of the most culturally significant things a people has?

The United States Government has had its time to destroy this 'āina. Now, please allow the people to restore and care for it in the ways that us Haole's would never know.

## Rebecca Hill

The extension of this military lease is a major threat to O'ahu, both to its environment and to its people. This base has devastating impacts to native flora and fauna, and also violates rights of indigenous Hawaiians. This lease should not be extended. Please withdraw and return the land to Kānaka Maoli control.

## Tai Hino

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākuā, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Fuck the government I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākuā Military Reservation, Mālama Mākuā has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these



communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** [Tai Hino](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Tai Hino  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 20:41:13 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:

[REDACTED]

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

emogf69@gmail.com

I RESIDE IN:

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

I AM:

A resident of O'ahu  
A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

Fuck the government

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian

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Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



Kyle Hinton

Give the land back to the natives. At the very least give them proper compensation for its use

I-755

Carol Hirth

I urge Hawaii NOT to continue to lease lands to the US Military. Hawaii land should be preserved, protected and used as the state deems appropriate.

Thank you.

Carol HirthBerkeley, CA

I-756

**From:** [Carol Hirth](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Leasing lands to the US Military  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:28:43 AM

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I urge Hawaii NOT to continue to lease lands to the US Military. Hawaii land should be preserved, protected and used as the state deems appropriate.

Thank you.

Carol Hirth  
Berkeley, CA

## Brittany Hite

The military exploited Hawaiians to take this land at such a minimal cost and continues to exploit them by never either giving the land back to the rightful owners or paying them what that land is actually worth and what they owe them for all the years they've exploited that land in the first place. This is not the land of the US military, this is Hawaiian land and it belongs to the Hawaiian natives that are constantly being pushed off their island because of exploitation like this and by developers. The military needs to leave this land and this needs to be the first step of many to restore Hawaii back to it's sovereign status that it technically should still be to this day since the land was taken from them through collusion and manipulation in the first place. US public law 103-150 is the US literally acknowledging their part in the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom and that Hawaii never relinquished their rights to a sovereign nation and yet here we still are keeping our claws in their land - taking things that aren't ours for our own gain, making living conditions worse DAILY for native hawaiins, making conditions in which native hawaiians who have every right to this land that is their home have to pack up and leave because they can no longer survive in this situation. I don't know how in good conscience the military thinks they can and should continue to travel down this road of exploitation. I don't know how everyone who has a hand in this and who isn't actively resisting and trying to stand up to this can sleep at night. #LandBack

## Jennifer Ho

Hi, thank you for the opportunity to comment. In light of the rapid intensification of natural disasters devastating communities all around the globe, in addition to the stresses from COVID-19, it's time to reassess priorities. While it may have made sense in the past to invest in military training, there are simply newer, bigger challenges we face today - like climate action, restoring clean air/water - that demand urgent, transformative action if we are to deliver a healthy, livable world for future generations. I am writing to oppose the U.S. army's quest to extend its 65 year lease on ~6,300 acres of land to be used for military training at Wahaiwa, Makua, and Kahuku. Not only does ongoing military presence intimidate the Indigenous people on the land, it also doesn't serve much of a purpose any more. Rather, doing this depletes natural and monetary resources. With your leadership, a healthier path forward can be written. Please, remove military occupation. Return the land to the Indigenous peoples so that they can steward the lands and waters as they had done for thousands of years. Did you know: Comprising less than 5% of the world's population, Indigenous people protect 80% of global biodiversity? It's time to heal our relationship with the planet which supports our basic necessities in food, water, and air. Thank you for your consideration.

## Vera Hoang

Do not pursue this land on behalf of the American military. Instead, rematriate the sacred land to Hawaiians indigenous to O'ahu so that they can manage them. Thank you!



## Pomai Hoapili

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Pomai Hoapili  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Pomai Hoapili  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 5:36:23 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Pomai Hoapili

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

I AM:  
A resident of O'ahu  
A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho  
A Kanaka Maoli

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust

beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu.

The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

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EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are

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## Judie Hoeppner

I am opposed to the State of Hawaii renewing leases for any branch of the military. Your presence on our islands makes us less safe than more safe. Not to mention the desecration of the land.  
Aloha, Judie Hoeppner Lihue Hawaii

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**From:** [judie@aloha.net](mailto:judie@aloha.net)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposed to Lease Renewal  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 20:56:31 PM

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I am opposed to the State of Hawaii renewing leases for any branch of the military. Your presence on our islands makes us less safe than more safe. Not to mention the desecration of the land.

Aloha,

Judie Hoepfner

Lihue Hawaii

## Molly Hoffman

Aloha. My name is Molly and I am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of the native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you.

## Rebecca Hogue

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



**From:** Rebecca Hogue  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 13:15  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Rebecca Hogue

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Rebecca Hogue

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the

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In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically

examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Charlene Holani

To whom it may concern,

I, Charlene Holani am emailing you in regards to your EIS for possible land retention for the 2029 year. There are not only environmental impacts that need to be addressed within this statement as the impacts to the environment largely affects social, cultural, political norms within Hawaii, and its future. Majority of these lands being Native Hawaiian Crown Lands or Ceded lands held in trust for the Native Hawaiian people. So this EIS should address how your occupation of this land will 100% not effect the people of Hawaii and its culture, and more so how it will assist as the generational hurt your entity has caused is irrevocable. This EIS should 100% involve how the military's role has and will effect Hawaii with the COVID-19 World Pandemic spread. How the thousands of site of occupied military land still have unimploded ordinances can be remedied? How you will assure these sites do not grow in numbers. EIS should include the effects of congestion and invasive training to the cultural sites. How the "liberty" times given to your personal potentially impacts the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing these being addressed in your EIS and more.

Charlene Kalena [REDACTED]

**From:** [Charlene Holani](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii EIS  
**Date:** Monday, August 2, 2021 23:35:14 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I, Charlene Holani am emailing you in regards to your EIS for possible land retention for the 2029 year. There are not only environmental impacts that need to be addressed within this statement as the impacts to the environment largely affects social, cultural, political norms within Hawaii, and its future. Majority of these lands being Native Hawaiian Crown Lands or Ceded lands held in trust for the Native Hawaiian people. So this EIS should address how your occupation of this land will 100% not effect the people of Hawaii and its culture, and more so how it will assist as the generational hurt your entity has caused is irrevocable. This EIS should 100% involve how the military's role has and will effect Hawaii with the COVID-19 World Pandemic spread. How the thousands of site of occupied military land still have unimploded ordinances can be remedied? How you will assure these sites do not grow in numbers. EIS should include the effects of congestion and invasive training to the cultural sites. How the "liberty" times given to your personal potentially impacts the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing these being addressed in your EIS and more.

Charlene Kalena Holani  
holanic@hawaii.edu  
(808) 445-1280

## Emily Holmber

Aloha kakahiaka. My name is Emily Holmber. I'm a resident of the Moiliili area of Manoa and I am strongly, strongly, strongly opposed to the extension of military leases at Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. I believe that the military has done destructive to the native land. And continues to distort natural habitats of endemic plants and animals and in turn has caused a devastating impact on kanaka maoli land. I BELIEVE STRONGLY that the lease of these lands is unlawful say the army has leased them for \$1 since 1964 and I strongly believe that when the leases do expire in 2029 the land should be immediately restored not only to the public, but to Native Hawaiians. Mahalo and have a good day.

## Emily Holmberg

It is unethical and unjust for the US military to illegally occupy native hawaiian lands. Deoccupy, decolonize, get the military out of Hawai'i!!



## Renee Hoomanawanui

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The land is poisoned by the ordinance and not cared for in any conscious way. It has only degraded with the military use. Pōhakuloa is a wonderful example of this travesty. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement

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These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

From: Renee Hoomanawanui  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Renee Hoomanawanui  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 21:03:42 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Renee Hoomanawanui

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Pahoa 96778

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

The land is poisoned by the ordinance and not cared for in any conscious way. It has only degraded with the military use. Pohakuloa is a wonderful example of this travesty.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader

network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites

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## Joanna Howard

Aloha!  
I oppose Anything done by the military,  
Hawai'i is already Occupied by the Military!  
The Military needs to leave!

## Ivy Hsu

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... it would further push back the potential that these lands have to benefit those to whom it truly belongs. With insane real estate prices and limited options, Kanaka Maoli and multi-generational locals alike are unable to afford to continue living in their own home. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

**From:** Ivy Hsu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 16:24  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Ivy Hsu

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Ivy Hsu
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu 96814
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	it would further push back the potential that these lands have to benefit those to whom it truly belongs. With insane real estate prices and limited options, Kanaka Maoli and multi-generational locals alike are unable to afford to continue living in there own home.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized

#### RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.



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## Rachel Huang

I strongly oppose this lease extension! Leases that were sold for only \$1 on Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā are expiring in 2029 and the US army is already working to retain the land for more military and warfare training. Extending these leases means more bombing, shooting, dropping explosives, and destroying the environment in these communities. These lands should be returned to the kanaka maoli and they dont belong to the military.

## Ting Huang

Give the land back to the native Hawaiians.

## Jane Huff

Hi, my name is Jane Huff and I am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuka, and Wahiawa. The U.S. Army has wrongfully leased this public land for only \$1 since 1964, and it's time for the land to be restored to the public as soon as the lease expires in 2029. Any extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and disrupt the lives of the local community. It's time to give the land back to the people.

## kelsey Hughes

I lived on Oahu for three years while my then husband was in the navy. From my short three years both attending college at U of H and also working at the Chart House with all locals - I quickly saw and realized the extensive damage not only physically but socially the military has had on the island. Debauchery, rude behavior, trash, lack of interest in learning about the culture, controlling 23% of the entire island. This is sacred land, once again being stolen by the United States. The water in the harbors are polluted with toxins, not to mention the extra thousands upon thousands of non-native Hawai'ians that now claim Oahu as their home, paying no mind to the history of the land. End this! End this and save Oahu from being colonized by the military.

## Angela Huntemer

Yeah, I just also wanted to reiterate some of the comments before about the short notice. There's really no excuse, and this Zoom meeting should have been a Zoom meeting from at least two weeks ago.

I was also very disappointed that there was no provision to hold meetings in the various communities that are directly impacted by training. I live up here on the North Shore. I got helicopters and live fire all over at night, especially. It's very disturbing. But that is a small thing in the big picture of some of the other issues that this whole question brings up.

I'd like to just correct the no action alternative that was cited in the little presentation. The no action alternative doesn't mean that you can just take off and not clean up. You must leave, and you must clean up and restore. Again, the track record of that is not very good.

But the no action alternative is, of course, my preferred one. And it will include restoration and cleanup. I mean, that's just the polite thing to do, at least.

I'm a public school teacher. So often when I'm presented with issues in the community and the world, I ask myself what would the students say? What would a 12-year-old say to this kind of situation?

Well, any child will tell you that military training has and will have enormous impact on the environment. I mean, we teach them, you know, basic science. It's not -- it's not complicated.

The negative impact on the environment, on the grounds, the water, the air, the endemic and endangered species that are hanging on by a thread here, it's absolutely shocking that we're even having this conversation, to be honest. Yeah. And also, KTA up here on the North Shore now has devil weed brought in by the military and subsequently spread to other places on the island. I will also say you do have some stellar biologists that work for you to mitigate some of the destruction that's wreaked on the land. And, you know, please engage them after you leave so that they can engage in proper restoration.

You know, there are places -- I hike all over the island. There's places in the back of Makua Valley that nobody can ever go to because of all the munitions, the live munitions that are there. And nobody can tend to the critically endangered plants and animals because of the danger. It's -- it's tragic, so.

I would like to incorporate everyone else's comments. I'm not from here, but it's been my home for 30 years, and you guys, we have something very, very special here in Hawai'i that needs to be protected. Thank you.



## Angela Huntemer-Sidrane

This EIS should include in depth, comprehensive studies of native flora and fauna found not only within the properties in question but also to technical, scientific studies conducted by private and government bodies, both published and unpublished regarding any property within five miles outside of the boundaries. This is important, as the military well knows, because they themselves have commissioned such studies. The surrounding properties, and the flora and fauna contained within, are important indicators of what may be present but possibly not detected or extirpated. They are also impacted by noise, sonar, and potentially other contaminants from and/or associated with the training grounds (coral, Hawaiian monk seals, cetaceans, migratory seabirds, etc.) It is critical that the EIS cover the historical biodiversity that was before and during the impacts of the last decades of training. This baseline must be found and shared, before the potential of future impacts of occupation and training are considered. Cumulative impacts and surrounding properties with the plants and animals they contain are an important component of both HEPA and NEPA processes. Special consideration will be given to animals and plants listed under ESA as well as those listed as protected at the state level.

Native wildlife studies should include entomology. Botanical studies need to include a special section on the pernicious and continuing impacts of invasive plants that were introduced by the lessee, for example "Devilweed". This, and possibly others are continuing to spread, within the Training Grounds and beyond, to various parts of the island, even other parts of the State and perhaps the world as a direct result of training maneuvers.

All references to other studies should be in the form of live links when possible and explanations should be included as to where and how to obtain copies of other reference materials, where possible live links should be created to complete copies of materials unavailable or difficult to access.

Please find and share the same kinds of information and documents outlined above to cover native Hawaiian cultural sites, archaeological sites, geological, hydrological and toxicological issues.

The US military has a dismal track record in Hawaii and almost everywhere else it has been, whether for training or anything else. The steady stream of superfund sites, untold toxic and live ordinance legacies left behind does not bode well for these training grounds currently or if they are used in the future as such. The US military's record on cleanup is not good.

Impacts of any and all kinds of disturbance to land, water and air but especially any and all radiological, electromagnetic, and toxic contamination of the leased properties, in the past, currently and in the future, if the leases are renewed, must be included. These impacts must be made public, studied and carefully considered in terms of impacts to biological, cultural, geological resources.

Any effort to hide contamination behind the cloak of national security should not endear any decision makers to the idea of renewal of the leases. We, the people, demand full disclosure as to the scope and extent of destruction and contamination.

Comprehensive plans for reversing impacts that have already occurred must be devised and carried out before any further action can be considered. If any contamination of any kind is not cleaned up, a full explanation of the reasons why, is the very least to be expected.

Clean up should begin immediately. One does not stay at someone's house and leave it a complete mess. Perhaps, due to legal and/or timeline constraints, a short extension of occupation could be granted while clean up takes place.

Every effort must be made to restore these lands to levels of rich biodiversity that existed before the US military lease began. The land must be cleared and cleaned of contaminants according to best

ecological practices and not according to the burning, bulldozing and burying methods used on some other lands used by the military.

I sincerely hope that our State Government (DLNR and elected officials) will be courageous and NO ACTION will be taken and that the military will clean up and leave these lands restored and allow them to be protected in perpetuity. Given all that has happened as a result of the US military occupation of Hawaii and with climate change threatening catastrophic upheaval on our planet, it is time to clean up and leave.

Thank you.

Rebekkah Hunter

This Rebekkah Hunter and I am a resident of Hobart, Indiana. I am strongly opposed to the military leased on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When these leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

**From:** [Rebekkah Hunter](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:48:25 AM

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This Rebekkah Hunter and I am a resident of Hobart, Indiana. I am strongly opposed to the military leased on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When these leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

jameela huntington

RESPECT THE AINA !! My family has lived on this island for generations and I've lived here my whole life, for the majority of our time here we've struggled with housing. My heart goes out to all the natives who share this struggle. Homelessness is a huge problem here and the military is one of the reasons for this. Native Hawaiians shouldn't have to leave the islands where their ancestors resided to have roofs over their heads. This is THEIR land !! LEAVE SACRED LAND ALONE !! DECOLONIZED HAWAII !!

Ramona Hussey

I strongly oppose extending the leases on the three Oahu sites: Makua Valley, Kahuku, and Poamohu. This island is small and precious and the people who live here, native Hawaiians and many others do not agree that our home should be used for military exercises. There are many other places where less destruction is likely than this precious island.

Rebecca Hutson

Give the land back or pay a fair price for the lease.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sam Ikehara. I was born on O‘ahu and I have lived here nearly my entire life. Both sides of my family have been entangled in the operations of the US military for generations, living, moving, settling, and passing during and after hot and cold wars across Asia and the Pacific Islands. As a result, my life and its conditions of possibility were set by the parameters of the US military and its network of violence that extends to the lands and waters my family originally comes from, Okinawa. I am a PhD candidate at the University of Southern California writing and researching the histories and presents of military devastation across sites subject to US military occupation, specifically Hawai‘i.

I want to live in a Hawai‘i where local economies of abundance thrive and where the most vulnerable communities are met with support rather than violence, punishment, and criminalization. For all these reasons and more, **I am deeply opposed to the US military renewing its lease of 6,300 acres of public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho.** The state of Hawai‘i has a responsibility to ensure that public trust lands—lands that are former Crown and Government Lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom and which are held in trust for Native Hawaiians specifically—serve the trust beneficiaries. This is not an abstract responsibility, but one written into the state constitution. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Subjecting these lands to exploitation and the violence of warmaking is entirely absurd, precisely because these lands could be used for public good—which includes, but is not limited to agriculture, housing, cultural practices, general well being, or conservation purposes.

These three leases exist as part of a larger network of military occupation that negatively impacts all people who live in Hawai‘i, but particularly Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. The US military controls nearly 25% of all land on O‘ahu. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources.

The US Army’s environmental impact statement must address:

1. The cumulative effects of these leases within the context of all past, present, and foreseeable future actions. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a



particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time;

2. The “no action alternative” it currently names, which would thus require a thorough account of the benefits of returning and restoring the lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho;
3. The disproportionate and disparate impacts these leases would have on the Native Hawaiian community. Given the US military’s role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, its ongoing suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty through military occupation and a number of other means, the EIS and the military more generally must, at the very least, acknowledge that these leases would disproportionately impact Hawaiians, thus rendering the leases fundamentally incompatible with the EPA’s definition of environmental justice;
4. The process through which they will bring in meaningful involvement from the communities most severely and directly impacted;
5. The documented archaeological and historic sites that are still relevant for cultural practices.

This is by no means a thorough list, just a start. In what I am sure are numerous other testimonies by other residents of O‘ahu, there are many other things that the military must consider. The pandemic fully elucidated just how desperately Hawai‘i needs to move away from its dependency on tourism and militarism. The lands the military seeks to lease are urgently needed for other, more life-giving purposes—creating food, housing, community, and resources. Rather than transforming the life giving land into a practice ground for death making in the name of “security,” we need to begin to make the infrastructure that would ensure that all peoples of Hawai‘i actually have what they need to be secure in their bodies and communities.

Sam Ikehara



## Mana Iluna

To Who it May Concern, I lived on the Big Island for many years and based on what I've seen there: -The State of Hawaii must not renew the leasing of its land to the U.S. Military. -What they bring there is not healthy in any way for the land, the residents and the visitors who the state relies on. Thank you for considering these thoughts, Mana Iluna, MSW

**From:** [Mana Iluna](#)  
**To:** [DLNR, L.D. Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] U.S Military Land Lease  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:32:22 AM

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To Who it May Concern,

I lived on the Big Island for many years and based on what I've seen there:

-The State of Hawaii must not renew the leasing of its land to the U.S. Military.

-What they bring there is not healthy in any way for the land, the residents and the visitors who the state relies on.

Thank you for considering these thoughts,

Mana Iluna, MSW

## Gabriela Indivero

Give the land back to the indigenous people of Hawaii. They shouldn't have been colonized in the first place and giving the land back would be a change in the right direction.

## Wally Inglis

To whom it may concern: I hereby submit testimony in opposition to all leases on Hawaii state lands occupied by the military--leases that will expire in 2029. This includes the 6,300 acres occupied by three military installations on the island of Oahu and 23,000 acres of ceded lands at Pohakuloa on Hawaii Island. It is long past time that the military end its wasteful exploitation of lands that belong to Native Hawaiians and to all of Hawaii's people. Despite some high visibility environmental projects, the various military branches have overall not been good stewards of our land or of the waters surrounding our islands. Extending the leases will only prolong and expand the overwhelming military presence in Hawaii. The heavy influence on our local housing market is but one of many areas of negative military impact on Hawaii. A Hawaii Island low-income rental housing project in which I am involved has been delayed for many months because of suspected unexploded ordnance on the site and surrounding areas. Doing clean-up and monitoring at our own expense has added time and expense to the project. This is but one example of the military abuse of the environment and failure to clean up after itself. Also in the area of housing: rents in many neighborhoods surrounding bases have escalated beyond the means of local residents because of rental subsidies provided to members of the military. There are also neighborhoods where homes owned by absentee military landlords are rented at exorbitant rates to the few families who can afford them. In summary, I urge that all leases not be extended, whether for the current amount of \$1 annually or any other amount. Enough is enough! Sincerely, Wally Inglis Oahu resident

**From:** [wally inglis](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Renewal of Leases on Oahu and Hawaii Island  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 17:29:14 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I hereby submit testimony in opposition to all leases on Hawaii state lands occupied by the military--leases that will expire in 2029. This includes the 6,300 acres occupied by three military installations on the island of Oahu and 23,000 acres of ceded lands at Pohakuloa on Hawaii Island.

It is long past time that the military end its wasteful exploitation of lands that belong to Native Hawaiians and to all of Hawaii's people. Despite some high visibility environmental projects, the various military branches have overall not been good stewards of our land or of the waters surrounding our islands.

Extending the leases will only prolong and expand the overwhelming military presence in Hawaii. The heavy influence on our local housing market is but one of many areas of negative military impact on Hawaii. A Hawaii Island low-income rental housing project in which I am involved has been delayed for many months because of suspected unexploded ordnance on the site and surrounding areas. Doing clean-up and monitoring at our own expense has added time and expense to the project. This is but one example of the military abuse of the environment and failure to clean up after itself.

Also in the area of housing: rents in many neighborhoods surrounding bases have escalated beyond the means of local residents because of rental subsidies provided to members of the military. There are also neighborhoods where homes owned by absentee military landlords are rented at exorbitant rates to the few families who can afford them.

In summary, I urge that all leases not be extended, whether for the current amount of \$1 annually or any other amount. Enough is enough!

Sincerely,

Wally Inglis  
Oahu resident

## Mike Inouye

Hello, my name is Mike Inouye and I'm a resident of Makiki. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa, specifically and strongly oppose the continued illegal occupation of the US military in the Hawaiian Kingdom generally. An extension of leases for the army will only result in further desecration and destruction of 'āina and further displace kanaka maoli as caretakers of this land. An extension of these leases will continue to allow the US military to use the sacred abundant places to perfect their chief exports of death and destruction to other sovereign nations. The US military is the greatest polluter on the planet, the US military brings misery, chaos, disorder, exploitation and resource extraction wherever it goes. So how can we trust the US military to be good stewards of the land, let alone, allow them to conduct their own environmental impact statement. They are the foxes guarding the henhouse. They are the arsonist keeping watch over the fire department. They are the invasive in the lo'i that need to be yanked out but the root. Not another 65 years, not another 10 years, not another year period. Land back and a'ole army. Thank you. "

## Mikey Inouye

Aloha. My name is Mike Inouye, and I'm a resident of Makiki. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Poamoho specifically and strongly oppose the continued illegal occupation of the U.S. military in the Hawaiian Kingdom generally. An extension of leases for the Army would only result in further desecration and destruction of 'āina and further displacement of kanaka maoli, the rightful caretakers and descendants of this land. An extension of these leases will continue to allow the U.S. military to use these sacred, abundant places to perfect their chief exploits of death and destruction to other sovereign nations. The U.S. military is the greatest polluter on the planet. The U.S. military brings misery, chaos, and disorder and engages in theft, exploitation, and resource extraction everywhere it goes. So how can we trust the U.S. military to be good stewards of the land, let alone allow them to conduct their own environmental impact statements? You are the foxes guarding the hen house. You are the arsonists keeping watch over the fire department. You are the invasives in the lo'i that need to be yanked out by the root. We all know that the idea that the U.S. Army will likely take this public opposition seriously is about as likely as the dark side sincerely asking members of the rebel alliance for input on the construction of the death star. This is a purely performative exercise, a tick box on your PR checklist so you can go on ignoring the true will of the people and the growing anti-imperialist decolonial movement that wants you off not just all lands in Hawai'i, but all lands everywhere. This land should be covered in kalo, not shell casings. That's why we say not another 65 years, not another 8 years, not another year, period. This is not your land to lease. Land back, aloha 'āina, and a'ole, U.S. Army. Thank you.



Bianca Isaki Ph.D., Esq.

To whom it may concern,  
We have read the EISPN made available by the army at:  
Caution-[http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc\\_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf](http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf)  
Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include: 1) Diplomacy with the perceived enemies of the state that require a USINDOPACOM theater strategy. Engaging with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation would foreclose the need for the USARHAW missions.  
2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a strategy for the USARHAW mission of contributing to counterattacks. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai`i against the depredations of state enemies.  
3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternatives and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.  
4) Restoration of an independent Kingdom of Hawai`i and deoccupation of Hawai`i lands. These twinned goals would set defense responsibilities before the new, independent government of Hawai`i and remove the onus of these concerns from the U.S. and its military, therefore removing the purpose and need for O`ahu lands for the military.  
Thank you. Yours, Bianca-- Bianca Isaki, Ph.D., Esq. KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance [REDACTED]

**From:** Bianca Isaki [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 17:19  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] O`ahu ATLR EIS Comment

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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To whom it may concern,

We have read the EISPN made available by the army at: Caution-  
[http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc\\_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf](http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf) < Caution-[http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc\\_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf](http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf) >

Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

- 1) Diplomacy with the perceived enemies of the state that require a USINDOPACOM theater strategy. Engaging with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation would foreclose the need for the USARHAW missions.
- 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a strategy for the USARHAW mission of contributing to counterattacks. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai`i against the depredations of state enemies.
- 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternatives and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.
- 4) Restoration of an independent Kingdom of Hawai`i and deoccupation of Hawai`i lands. These twinned goals would set defense responsibilities before the new, independent government of Hawai`i and remove the onus of these concerns from the U.S. and its military, therefore removing the purpose and need for O`ahu lands for the military.

Thank you.

Yours,  
Bianca

--

Bianca Isaki, Ph.D., Esq.  
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance  
[REDACTED]

Tom Iwanicki

Land back bodies back. Aloha. My name is Tom Iwanicki. I'm a resident of Makiki and I'm calling it firm opposition to extending the lease of more than 6000 acres of unceded Hawaiian lands to the US Army. The US military is an act of violence on the 'aina and its people since long before the overthrow and ongoing occupation. These lands belong in Hawaiian hands, not the hands of its oppressors who enact violence on the 'aina violence on our women. Who make the cost of living here unbearable who leave scars and unexploded ordinances in sacred places. Who leaks gas and other poisons into our aquifers among so many other atrocities. These are unceded lands, illegally occupied lands, the argument should begin and end there. This is an opportunity for healing that we should seek. Land back army out. Mahalo nui for your time. Aloha.

## Tom Iwanicki

Okay. Land back. Bodies back. Aloha. My name is Tom Iwanicki. I'm a resident of Makiki, and I'm here in solidarity with my kanaka comrades in firm opposition to extending the lease of more than 6,000 acres of unceded Hawaiian land to the U.S. Army. The U.S. military is an act of violence on the 'aina and its people since long before the overthrow and ongoing occupation. These lands belong in Hawaiian hands, not in the hands of its oppressors, who enact violence on the 'aina and violence on women, who make the cost of living here unbearable, who leave scars and unexploded ordinance in sacred places, who leak gas and other poisons into our aquifers, among so many other atrocities. These are unceded lands, illegally occupied lands. The argument should begin and end there. This is an opportunity for healing that we should seize. Land back. Army out. Mahalo nui for your time. Aloha.

## Kelsey Jackson

Hello, my name is Kelsey Jackson and I'm a resident of Portland, Oregon. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the indigenous lands in Hawai'i. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the State for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029...[unintelligible] should be immediately restored to the public and the indigenous people of Hawaii. Thank you.

## Karen Jeffery

Please just send them home, cancel all leases with military, protect our aina and our residents...not the deep pockets of the military-industrial complex. 💎

## Jamie John

Get the hell out of Hawaii and all of her other islands. The U.S. war machine needs to cease and everywhere you step is stolen land. Fuck the troops

## Emily Johns

End the military occupation and return the land to native Hawaiians. Protect our natural resources.

## Christina Jones

Hello,

As a long term resident of Maui, not of Hawaiian descent, I feel it is my duty to speak up about Hawaiian land issues. My intention is to help find balance between the US and the Hawaiians.

There are many native Hawaiians who are waiting for land. If any area up for lease could be given back to the people whose ancestors cultivated this region, as act of good faith, please consider it.

Thank you

## Katie Mae Jones

It's 2021 and American rent is past due. I am a resident of Wahiawa, HI, and my family has a history of military service, my father having served in the Navy for 13 years. It is absurd that the military is able to rent thousands of acres of land for a dollar, when the people of Hawaii experience dire economic and environmental consequences from the American state legacy of settler-colonialism, military imperialism, racism, extractive capitalism, and environmental degradation. In the face of global climate change, and with the knowledge that the US military creates more global pollution than a combined 140 countries, it is past time for the military's lease on Hawaiian lands to be vacated. Land back now.

## Nathalie Jones

To whom it may concern:

I am firmly opposed to the US Army's retention of "state" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho and I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow these three leases to expire and require that the Army comply with the terms of the lease, including clean-up and restoration of these lands. I do not support Alternatives 1-3, which would not bring about much needed change to communities on 'Oahu.

The US military occupies 22.4% of the land on 'Oahu, an island which is over-populated and becoming increasingly difficult to live in due to housing shortages and the high cost of living. Once the Army's lease ends, the land should return to the people who live and work on this island, the kama'aina and Kanaka Maoli (native peoples of this land). We are currently not able to provide for the basic needs of local people, an issue only emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic. This needs to change now. Army training does not directly impact food security, homelessness, or local resilience in general, especially in the time of a pandemic. Our community must turn the focus to the people of Hawai'i and their immediate needs. Once the aforementioned leases end in 2029, the Army needs to turn over the land back to the people. 65 years ago the world was a very different place but the 'Oahu of today does not benefit from Army occupation and use of Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Once again, I support the "No Action Alternative" and am deeply opposed to continued Army occupation/lease of the lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Thank you, Nathalie Jones

**From:** [Nathalie Jones](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Community Testimony: Support for the No Action Alternative for Lease of State Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 23:11:08 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am firmly opposed to the US Army's retention of "state" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho and I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow these three leases to expire and require that the Army comply with the terms of the lease, including clean-up and restoration of these lands. I do not support Alternatives 1-3, which would not bring about much needed change to communities on 'Oahu.

The US military occupies 22.4% of the land on 'Oahu, an island which is over-populated and becoming increasingly difficult to live in due to housing shortages and the high cost of living. Once the Army's lease ends, the land should return to the people who live and work on this island, the kama'aina and Kanaka Maoli (native peoples of this land). We are currently not able to provide for the basic needs of local people, an issue only emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic. This needs to change now. Army training does not directly impact food security, homelessness, or local resilience in general, especially in the time of a pandemic. Our community must turn the focus to the people of Hawai'i and their immediate needs. Once the aforementioned leases end in 2029, the Army needs to turn over the land back to the people. 65 years ago the world was a very different place but the 'Oahu of today does not benefit from Army occupation and use of Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Once again, I support the "No Action Alternative" and am deeply opposed to continued Army occupation/lease of the lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

Thank you,  
Nathalie Jones

## Shanti Jourdan

"Hi, my name is Shanti Jourdan spelled S as in Sam. S-H-A-N-T-I. Shanti. And Jourdan, J-O-U-R-D-A-N. sh. Again, that's S-H-A-N-T-I J-O-U-R-D-A-N and I'm a resident of Oakland, California, zip code XXXXX. I'm calling to voice my very strong opposition to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. I hope I'm saying that right. And please pardon my mispronunciation of those lands. I feel that an extension of these leases and deeply believe that this extension will be to further harm done to the native Habitat to the animals and the plants. And I do not in any way support an extension of military lease. I feel the army has very wrongfully leased these lands and It's a continuation of harm from the 60s and I hope that it discontinues, very soon. Thank you so much. Again, my name is Shanti Jordan and my zip code in California is XXXXX"

## Jim-eok Jung

Allowing the lease renewal for the Army to stay on Hawaii land will continue to displace the people who are Indigenous to that land, and who are the rightful owners of it. Hawaii and its people and resources have been under threat due to the increase in people moving in and treating sacred land like a tourist attraction for years. The Army must pull out of the lease in order to avoid displacing and hurting the people of Hawaii, and taking away their very own resources. People of the land are the rightful owners of it, but they have been stripped of all that is sacred and important to them. I urge you to consider the social, environmental, and cultural implications of what renewing this lease would have on the people whose land the Army have been occupying since the 1900's, to have empathy and think about how you would feel if your own people were being displaced out of your own land, and what that would mean for both the people of Hawaii and the rest of the world. Thank you.

## Linda Jury

"Hello, my name is Linda jury. I'm a resident in waianae long time lifetime resident of waianae, Hawaii. And I'm calling to express my concern about the extension of the lease and all of those places, especially in Makua valley. I believe that our people have long endured The military occupation of our valley, and I do not agree with extending the lease another sixty years. Absolutely not. I'm calling to oppose the extension of the lease and my name is Linda jury mahalo "



Erica K

Aloha, My name is Erica K. and currently I am a resident of Portland, Oregon but was born and raised in Hawaii. I'm writing in opposition to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

I lived most of my formative years in Mililani which is close to the Wahiawa base. I remember the constant noise of military helicopters late at night and the sounds of gunshots during military practice. All that noise is so disruptive and just a constant reminder of the damage and desecration being done to the land and local communities.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

S K

This is beyond harmful! Please literally stop and give the people of Hawaii their Land back

## Kaleikoa Ka‘eo

Aloha. Aloha 'aina oe io welina. Aloha nui kakou. A o inoa Kaleikoa Ka'eo i ke keiki papa no ka mokupuni o Maui. A no lela.

Just to be real quick, and has been said over and over again, let's be clear. We are as a people, our lahui kanaka are totally 100 percent against any more destruction, poisoning, and the death and the poisoning of our 'aina, our lands.

As we all know, the United States is a foreign, belligerent, military. They have a presence that's illegal in our islands and unlawful since 1893. Our people have never given consent to not one soldier being in our land, to one valley being poisoned, to any of our waters being diverted and wasted upon any of the military installations.

We are under an illegal occupation by this foreign power, who has proven over and over again. This is not an accusation. This is proven by fact. Over and over again, which has, I mean, so when we look at the so-called lands that have been leased and they propose to lease, all we got to look at the record at the so-called lessees, and you can see they have never been good tenants at all.

And so when we talk about what they might do, let's look at what they have done. And before you talk about expanding, go and clean up your mess in the -- first of all.

And secondly, just to kind of be real quick, just to remind you that you have a long history, the U.S. military presence in the Pacific, of poisoning, of death, of destruction of native peoples, whether we talking about our brothers and sisters in Micronesia or you talking about the Seventh Fleet from the Philippines up into Okinawa, the Pacific peoples have always, always resisted the U.S. empire, who have forced themselves as part of the mentality of dominance of the people of the Pacific.

And let me just say directly to Colonel and the rest of U.S. military, you have no honor. You have no honor. You are not people of freedom. Your people are the home of supremacists, for far too long have been a fakery and sham. Land of the free -- no, land for free. That's what you always have expected.

And so we -- we will never -- we will never -- we will never accept your presence in these islands. We'll never accept what you plan to do. And so my hope is that you would all pack up as soon as possible and leave these islands forever and not to return.

So you don't come here as peacemakers, but as foreign, unwanted invaders. And if you had honor, if you really had honor, you would see us as human beings, as I can see you as a human being. But I don't know if you're really human, if you consider yourselves human beings, when you bring death and destruction and dehumanization to peoples around the world.

And so I would ask that you take back this message to your big boss back in Washington, D.C., and tell them that we don't want you here. We never wanted you here. And we expect at some time in the future that you will leave our islands. So with that, ku e mau a mau. Mahalo nui.

## Andrea Kaaawa

"Calling regarding the training area. First off, the price of \$1 a year for 65 years, when dollar to lease, that ridiculous. ridiculously low. I think that, you know, we do need training facilities on a place where there is land. Quantities of land, not on an island. There's too many contaminants that come in. For example, the devil weed that the military brought in from Southeast Asia, something like that. Maybe via the Stryker Brigade. I know it came through. Taking up residence all over the island. Now if you get a can't stop it. Was courtesy of things that go wrong and training facility areas. They started pretty much North Shore, Oahu probably between The Kahuku training area and the Whenever that military establishment. What is it called? Anyway, the base on the other side of the island and that, that's the kind of thing that can happen in and must be investigated why why that happened and and it's why is it not being eradicated. It could have been eradicated at the beginning. So the harm that this does, this training area has caused widespread to Oahu, is what I'm calling about mainly and then the fallout from the Stryker brigade itself that we had tons and tons of air, full of waste products that were pollutants. Put into the air and into the water, while those vehicles were on move, you know, moving across that drum road. From Schofield was I guess to Kahuku. These kinds of things are a chance to Training areas. I guess that you find acceptable, but it's not acceptable in a place where people are trying to have a healthy life. Now, there is also talk about their radar. The whole radar. That's another one. It's just got some radiation things that are socially supposedly low level you know certain things. Oh, they're not going to be so bad, but you know you don't go into them in depth and they are bad and collectively their worse. So this is something that I think really really needs. To be not only really just studied and then he is but just from the beginning, say, look, this is going to cause this pollutants just devil weed or whatever else comes up. Just prevent it go somewhere there is much more land something much more under control, not a jungle where things grow like crazy. thank you Andrea Kaaawa. "

## Krysten Ka'ai

To whom it may concern,

My name is Krysten Ka'ai. I am a Hawai'i born native, raised in a town on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu called Wai'anae. Being born and raised in these beautiful Hawaiian Islands is something I am so grateful for. It is a blessing that I surely am thankful for everyday.

I am writing with great concern regarding the efforts to maintain extensions of military leases on public Hawaiian lands. My family and I grew up on the beaches near Mākua and we still frequent the area often. Throughout the years that military personnel has had over these landmarks has negatively impacted the natural habitat.

I humbly ask for the land to be given back to natives to restore, just as many volunteer services has been sent to the island of Kaho'olawe in the continued effort to replenish the damage done to that island. If the military continues to control these lands more damage will be done.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,  
Krysten Ka'ai

## Kalani Kaanaana

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... I oppose lease renewals for live fire training exercises because of the significant impacts to the environment and our people. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are

exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

From: [Kalani Kaanaana](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kalani Kaanaana  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 23:46:32 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Kalani Kaanaana
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Kailua, Hawaii 96734
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	I oppose lease renewals for live fire training exercises because of the significant impacts to the environment and our people.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O‘AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic

Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call

for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an



environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the

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Cognito Forms

## Von Kaanaana

"Aloha mai kakou, o Kekoa Kaanaana kou inoa. My name is Von Kaanaana, I am from Kahuku born and raised, and I believe the military should not be allowed to Lease this land any longer, and that it should be returned to its stewards, the kanaka maoli Native Hawaiian indigenous people of this land, of this aina. It has been proven that the military does not care about the environmental impact at all within these areas considering the amount of gunfire and training and explosions that happen, the US military needs to deoccupy Hawaii and leave because you are illegally occupying this land. Period. You folks have gotten away with robbing Native Hawaiians and indigenous people for too long, and it's time for the land back. 'Aina back to its original stewards, so that we can properly take care of this 'aina, as we have for millennia. mahalo Nui loa for your time. Thank you. "

## Iokepa Kaeko

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The military has shown to be unable to be good Stuart's on the stolen lands of the Hawaiian kingdom. The prolonged illegal occupation has ravished our aina. The \$1 lease is a prime example of the corrupt system of colonial settlers. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

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**From:** Iokepa Kaao [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:59  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Iokepa Kaao

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Iokepa Kaao
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Hilo, Hawaii 96720
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	The military has shown to be unable to be good Stuart's on the stolen lands of the Hawaiian kingdom. The prolonged illegal occupation has ravished our aina. The \$1 lease is a prime example of the corrupt system of colonial settlers.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent

#### ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that

would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the

same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that

the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

End the illegal military occupation of the  
Hawaiian kingdom

## Ku Kahakalau

My family and I strongly oppose the U.S. Army's intent to continue to use more than 6,000 acres of state land on O'ahu for military training. With less and less open space on all islands, particularly O'ahu, it is unconscionable to allow further use of the Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area and Makua Military Reservation by the Army, Marine Corps and Hawaii Army National Guards, even if the military was to pay market lease prices to the State of Hawai'i. According to our cosmogonic genealogies the land is our older sibling and should not be intentionally damaged by anyone. We Native Hawaiians have been traumatized by the US military at least since the illegal overthrow of our beloved Queen Lili'uokalani, which has resulted in widespread historic trauma evident in Native Hawaiian education, health and economic indicators. In order for us to heal, the purposeful destruction of our land must stop. Me ke aloha 'āina, Kū Kahakalau, Ph.D.

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C. M. Kaiama

Hawaii has had to shoulder the burden of the American military's presence here in the Islands since 1893. If you truly cared about keeping people here safe, then you would down-size immediately. Your unbridled use and abuse of our lands for military expansion has made Hawaii a target of every American enemy. We need this land more than ever now, not you. Please clean it and make sure it is in the pristine condition that it was in before you occupied it, and leave. The Continent has so much land, go there and do your maneuvers. Aloha Aina!C. M. Kaiama

**From:** [Manu Kaiama](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lease extensions of Makua, Kahuku, Kawaiiloa-Poamoho.  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 13:01:43 PM

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Hawaii has had to shoulder the burden of the American military's presence here in the Islands since 1893. If you truly cared about keeping people here **safe**, then you would down-size immediately. Your unbridled use and abuse of our lands for military expansion has made Hawaii a target of every American enemy. We need this land more than ever now, not you. Please clean it and make sure it is in the pristine condition that it was in before you occupied it, and leave. The Continent has so much land, go there and do your maneuvers.  
Aloha Aina!  
C. M. Kaiama

## Ron Ka-ipo

Do not extend lease beyond 2029 at Pohakuloa. "War is obsolete." Bots have replaced boots on the ground. 23,000 Acres need too be healed. All that depleted uranium. Radioactive killer of future generations.

**From:** [Ron Ka-ipo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR, L.D. Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lease extension.  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:27:00 AM

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Do not extend lease beyond 2029 at Pohakuloa. "War is obsolete."  
Bots have replaced boots on the ground.  
23,000 Acres need too be healed.  
All that depleted uranium. Radioactive killer of future generations.

## Kyle Kajihiro

Please include the attached report with my scoping submission. Thank you.  
Sincerely Kyle Kajihiro  
Maly Ahupuaa of Makua and Kahanahaiki w Map.PDF  
[File size exceeds max capacity; see Sharefile]

## Kyle Kajihiro

So thank you for this opportunity. My name is Kyle Kajihiro. I live in Mo'ili'ili. I'm a lecturer at U.H. in ethnic studies and geography. I want to talk about scope, legal principles, and purpose and need. The scope has to consider the tempo access past, present, and future. This means looking toward the past for what practices existed in these lands that have been temporarily suspended but could be revived. And it also has to look at the historical trauma. You heard about the overthrow, eviction and dispossession, fires, unexploded armaments, and the slow violence of toxins. The present. How -- how is the dispossession or the Army's retention of these lands affecting the diaspora of Hawaiians who are connected to these places who are now orphans from their ancestral lands? How is the denial of meaningful access and cultural practices affecting the continued vitality of Hawaiian culture? Looking to the future, will it -- this is a pivot point. Will it be a future of healing and resurgence, or will it be the ongoing violence of semi-colonial dispossession? On the spatial access, the -- the announcers must go beyond just the local sites that are being affected. Some have already testified about where are these wars that are being practiced on Hawaiian lands affecting? Who are the people that will be affected by these wars? Who are the people that have been dispersed, who have been evicted from these lands? How are they also being affected by the continued dispossession? This gets to the cumulative impacts. They have to look at total effects, direct and indirect, as well as the synergistic effects of all these actions. Legal principles. The U.N. declaration on the rights of indigenous people says that indigenous peoples have a right of free, prior, and informed consent. And several people have spoken to this tonight. So to frame it another way in the anti-rape slogan, no means no. When people say no, that has to be respected. And this part of the international framework. There's a Hawaiian proverb, Ke ali'i ka'aina e kau e ke kanaka. The land is chief, and the human is the servant. So what rights does the land have? To not be desecrated, to not be shot or bombed, to not suffer abuse. The court upheld the principle in the Pohakuloa lawsuit of malama 'aina. This should be a guiding principle for moving forward. And on the purpose and meaning -- ... Yeah. Last effort. What does the 'aina need? What does the community need to continue its practice? The military needs to repair the harm it has done to the land and community. And I just want to end with a quote from Walter Kamanaho who testified in 2001. He's a kupuna from Waianae and who was evicted from Makua. He said, "I was small, used to run when the plane came in. The plane had no respect for people living in the valley. Only had one small little church. You ever seen the church get bombed on Sunday? I seen that. Small boy. I seen my church get taken away by a bomb. I hope my ancestors come back outside and tell you guys, because I going tell you why. Nothing can cover that, yet you continue it more and more. You bury all water wells inside there. You bury toxic stuff there. You cover up, bury inside that place. No come down here, use us Hawaiians. We been taking and holding our puke. Something hurts so much, yeah? Go home with a big worry. Think about us. Sometimes we can bite back hard." To repair the harm, you guys are returning the land and sovereignty. And that must be the guiding purpose for the CIS. Rename the study Army Training Land Return Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you.

## Lahela Kalohi-Arroyo

Chief of Staff of the Army General James C. McConville has advocated for the People First intuitive. He said “When we take care of our people and treat each other with dignity and respect, we will have a much stronger, and more committed Army”. While only 0.7% of active duty soldiers are Native Hawaiian, we do serve along side the Army’s diverse population of men and women. You must give the land back to the native people of Hawaii. Land is scarce these days especially on Oahu. Some of the land the Army is occupying for \$1 for 65 years could be used to house native Hawaiian's. The Army claims to need the land for training. They can afford to send entire Brigades with their equipment from all over the US to Europe. They can certainly afford to send smaller units for training from Hawaii to other locations. Give the land back! Live up to your motto of "People First" stand in solidarity with the native Hawaiians and return our homelands. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,  
Lahelaonalani Kalohi Arroyo91 BEB Senior Enlisted AdvisorFort Hood, TexasXXXXXXXXXX

## Leah Kanae

Aloha, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, these lands should be immediately restored to the public.

Mahalo.

## Kanaloa Kane

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Kanaloa Kane, and I live on the east side of Oahu. I am a native Hawaiian who heavily opposes your plans to extend your lease(s). As a resident of Hawaiian Homestead Lands I find it highly off putting that every single Hawaiian on Homestead Land pays more per year, per lot then the military and we actually have a right to be here. The environmental damage you guys cause to our aina is absolutely outrageous and quite frankly it's a waste of your own funding and resources. We have to save what's left of our tiny island home before there's nothing left.

Please put an end to this madness, Mahalos

## Hope Kaneakua

"Aloha kakou. My name is hope kaneakua. And I'm a resident of Pahoa, Hawaii. I am strongly opposed the extension of military leases on that lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. Destroyed the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The Army has wrongfully leases land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expiring 2029 this man should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo Nui loa. "



Kaimana Kanekoa

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The further desecration and destruction of Ohana and Aina will continue as a result of continued military presence. Hawaii ,with Oahu in particular, have suffered so much devastation loss and damage from the invasion of foreign ideologies, that what is left of culture and resources is a mere shadow of what it was. But those things can return with proper care and cooperation between people, not corporations. Of which the United States Military is one.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

All of these very valid points should be considered and weighed in the decision making process. These concerns that have all been found to be not only accurate but legally enforceable in one way or another, involve impacting the lives of REAL people. Especially indigenous people whose ancestral lineage is derived from the very land and valleys under review.

**From:** Kaimana Kanekoa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 18:02  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kaimana Kanekoa

Koa Futures  
EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O’ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Kaimana Kanekoa
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	The further desecration and destruction of Ohana and Aina will continue as a result of continued military presence. Hawaii ,with Oahu in particular, have suffered so much devastation loss and damage from the invasion of foreign ideologies, that what is left of culture and resources is a mere shadow of what it was. But those things can return with proper care and cooperation between people, not corporations. Of which the United States Military is one.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL COMMENTS HERE.

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Cognito Forms

Kyungmin Kang

I please request that the military will not re-lease lands that should be made public.

Vagmi Kantheti

This land should be returned to the native people of Hawaii

## Dani Kaohe David

No no no. 'A'ole. When will enough be enough? Stop allowing the military to have control of our home. Native Hawaiians are shut out of parts of the island because the US military are occupying these spaces of land. Oahu it not an island anymore, it's a base with bases. Land lease is a lease is for a reason. When their time is up the tenant, in this case the US military needs to evacuate. Let these leases expire, do not renew them. Let the environment breathe, relax, and rejuvenate itself. Let it be still and have no destruction be done to it.

## Piilani Kaopuiki

Lands leased to the U.S. military should not be re-leased to them. The world has changed tremendously since the 1960s when the land was leased. The U.S. should have learned from the experiences of the many conflicts that have not been won militarily over the years. Conflicts with passionate nationalists in numbers smaller than U.S. forces have prevailed in their fight for their homeland. Conflicts with countries with endless potential reinforcements definitely will not hesitate to take on the U.S. military – China and Russia.

The U.S. military cannot overcome issues such as the aggression in fishing in the Pacific from China. Ideological challenges from China and Russia willing to deploy military might to fight the U.S. cannot be overcome militarily. Hawaii's location in the Pacific makes it a prime target for military assault.

Hawaii, in this time of global upheaval, can and should provide a space for diplomacy and international peace discussions. In other words, a Switzerland of the Pacific. A continuing mighty U.S. military presence would diminish the diplomatic intention.

The U.S. military does not fit with the current view Hawaii has of itself for the future as a place striving for food independence through increased agriculture use of its lands. Currently the U.S. military occupies a substantial amount of land.

## Kawena‘ulaokalā Kapahua

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The military presence in Hawai‘i is actively harmful to everyone in Hawai‘i. The military bombs our land, poisons our drinking water, destroys our environment. The military is a force for evil and imperialism and should not be in Hawai‘i. The US military is illegally occupying Hawai‘i and illegally overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom. If this sounds like an elementary testimony with very simple sentences, it is because the military has proven itself to be elementary. No more bases, no more leases. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons

testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. The US military should and must leave Hawai‘i Immediately. The continued presence of the Military in Hawai‘i only utilizes us Hawaiians as human shields. When America threatens its enemies, it’s enemies, not ours, it is not American lives they put at risk, but those in Guam, Hawai‘i, Okinawa, and across the world. The military has shown it has no regard

for any life, but especially not the lives of non white, non Americans. They poison our water, they rape and murder women in our communities, they destroy our land, and lie and erase our history all in the name of making money for weapons manufacturers. The United States America has no business being in Hawai'i, it has no business even being in the American continent that it stole from Native Americans. The Hawaiian Kingdom does not need to be held hostage by you, abandon your bases, clean up your bombs, pay us reparations, give us back our independence, and leave Hawai'i and the Pacific forever you imperialist pigs.

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**From:** Kawena'ulaokalā Kapahua [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 14:50  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kawena'ulaokalā Kapahua

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Kawena'ulaokalā Kapahua
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	The military presence in Hawai'i is actively harmful to everyone in Hawai'i. The military bombs our land, poisons our drinking water, destroys our environment. The military is a force for evil and imperialism and should not be in Hawai'i. The US military is illegally occupying Hawai'i and illegally overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom. If this sounds like an elementary testimony with very simple sentences, it is because the military has



I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

proven itself to be elementary. No more bases, no more leases.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and

restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of

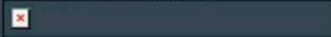
Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.



PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

The US military should and must leave Hawai'i immediately. The continued presence of the Military in Hawai'i only utilizes us Hawaiians as human shields. When America threatens its enemies, it's enemies, not ours, it is not American lives they put at risk, but those in Guam, Hawai'i, Okinawa, and across the world. The military has shown it has no regard for any life, but especially not the lives of non white, non Americans. They poison our water, they rape and murder women in our communities, they destroy our land, and lie and erase our history all in the name of making money for weapons manufacturers. The United States America has no business being in Hawai'i, it has no business even being in the American continent that it stole from Native Americans. The Hawaiian Kingdom does not need to be held hostage by you, abandon your bases, clean up your bombs, pay us reparations, give us back our independence, and leave Hawai'i and the Pacific forever you imperialist pigs.

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## Jordan Kapeliela

This is such a waste of land. Why must we hurt others just for money? And why must you hurt the Hawaiian people more? It's as bad as beating a person on the ground that has been beaten many times prior. Kanaka Country!

## Chezerie Kapiowainuinui

Okay. Great. Aloha, everyone. Thank you for everyone's testimony. My name is Chezerie Kapiowainuinui. I am of Hawaiian descent and a lineal descendant of the chief of Kaua'i. I am opposing the lease extension to the military and, yeah, I don't think that we should -- I don't think the leases should be extended again due to the fact that we had so many Native Hawaiians that don't have -- that don't have homes. We have a lot of pollution from the military, and we would just like if we could that all cleaned up. And, like, the desecration of our land from the military has been very terrible. We have the most military installations here in our 'aina. And, like, for myself, I pay \$4100 rent, so for the fact that you guys get leased land for a dollar is such an insult to me. I work so hard to live here on my own land that I am, like, lineal descendant from past the 1700s. Like, we all take care of our 'aina, and you guys don't show that you guys care about the people. You guys don't care about the water. You don't care about the land. And I just oppose any kind of lease extension to the military. We need to take care of our own people. Our people here are suffering, and we don't have -- we can't go back to the continental United States. That is not where we're from. We are from Hawai'i. All we want to do is grow our own food and take care of the land and the water, because that's what's important. And so, yes, I oppose the lease extension. And I hope that you guys can find it in your heart to, like, really look at the problem that we have here in Hawai'i and what we can do together to fix it. Because we have so much displaced Hawaiians, and the dollar leasing to you guys is, like, I cannot even believe that the fake state has leased out these lands to the military. And you guys just keep polluting, bombing, desecrating. And, you know, you guys just, like, don't care. So I oppose. I hope you guys can find it in your heart to make a difference so that we can, you know, make things better here for people. And, yeah, so thank you for listening to my testimony. I hope that we can come to common grounds so we can fix all this that has been messing up our land here. So you guys have a great night. Thank you so much.

## Ku'ulani Kato

"NO" to the Army's proposal to retain 6,300 acres of "State" land (of the 18,060 acres they currently control) for another 65 years. This includes Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho and Mākua. Ku'ulani Kato

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:01  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] NO to the Army retaining "State land - Makua, Kahuku and Kawiloa-Poamoho.

"NO" to the Army's proposal to retain 6,300 acres of "State" land (of the 18,060 acres they currently control) for another 65 years. This includes Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho and Mākua.

Ku'ulani Kato

## Alihilani Katoa

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is 'Alihilani Katoa and I am a resident of O'ahu (Pālolo Valley district) since birth. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. These ahupua'a should instead be designated for the Native Hawaiian community, and Hawai'i residents as they are on ceded lands. There are an estimated 15,000 people who suffer from homelessness in Hawai'i and majority of those people are of Native Hawaiian descent. The cost of living/owning a home or 'āina in Hawai'i is astronomically high, and is increasing each year. It is egotistical of the U.S Military to be leasing land for 65 years at \$1 while my kānaka 'ōiwi lāhui are houseless.

I oppose the U.S Military using our lands and waters for target practice, training, housing of Military residents, and storage for nuclear weapons for another 65 years. This will cause further irreversible damage to our delicately balanced eco system. These lands should immediately be redirected to the public and the Native Hawaiian Community.

Military occupation has had a detrimental impact on Native Hawaiians and our homeland. It has caused land alienation, land dispossession, poverty, homelessness, extinction of endemic plants and animals, the loss of cultural identity, and genocide of Native peoples. I urge you to reconsider.

Mahalo,  
'Alihilani Katoa  
O'ahu Resident

## ‘Alihilani Katoa

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because...These lands should be redirected to Kanaka Maoli, and residents of Hawai‘i. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai’anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono o hawaii [the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness]

**From:** 'Alihilani Katoa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 16:14  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - 'Alihilani Katoa

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O’ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

**MY NAME IS:** 'Alihilani Katoa  
**MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:** alihilani.k@gmail.com  
**I RESIDE IN:** Honolulu 96816  
**I AM:** A resident of O’ahu

**"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...** These lands should be redirected to Kanaka Maoli, and residents of Hawai'i

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono o hawaii

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## Aaron Katzeman

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industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Aaron Katzeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:00  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Aaron Katzeman

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Aaron Katzeman
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kihei, Hawaii 96753
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The



exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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Powered by



## Kendall Kaufmann

To whom it may concern,

I am standing in solidarity to demand the return of Hawaiian lands to Native Hawaiian people. I demand the immediate removal of any and all US military operations and military bases from Hawaiian land and Hawaiian seas. Return and restore the land back to Hawaiian people.

Discontinue the abuse of Hawaiian land for colonizer military trainings.

That is all you must do at this point. It is your duty to remove yourself from the Hawaiian land you are illegally occupying. Kendall Kaufmann Civil and Environmental Engineering, B.S. Minor in Urban and Regional Studies UCLA 2020

**From:** [Kendall Kaufmann](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land Back  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 12:54:44 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am standing in solidarity to demand the return of Hawaiian lands to Native Hawaiian people. I demand the immediate removal of any and all US military operations and military bases from Hawaiian land and Hawaiian seas. Return and restore the land back to Hawaiian people. Discontinue the abuse of Hawaiian land for colonizer military trainings.

That is all you must do at this point. It is your duty to remove yourself from the Hawaiian land you are illegally occupying.

Kendall Kaufmann  
Civil and Environmental Engineering, B.S.  
Minor in Urban and Regional Studies  
UCLA 2020

## Tanya Kauhi

I believe that it is imperative for the army to have this space to train for the safety of the nation and specifically, Hawaii. But I don't not believe the lease payment should be any less than what market price should be. The \$1 agreement is a joke and that agreement was intended for HAWAIIANS...not the military. So if they want it, they should pay the corrected price as it should be. That funds will help to lift our lahui out of poverty and homelessness which is the right thing for both sides.

## Law Kawai

All right. Aloha. Aloha to everybody doing the testimony. Mahalo nui. Kia'i. The proof's in the pudding.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, especially the laws of these lands, the laws of the kanawai. The laws have been pretty much stated as the evidence of this show that's being put on right now.

We have always been a peaceful people. We have always been a family-oriented people. But this kind of stuff right here, sometimes it's just a little bit too much when you push. So the people have spoken and laid the facts and the truth down.

And I'll just keep saying it, because Daniel just speaked, and he spoke of the truth, of the diabetes, of the way we live and the foods we eat. That is in one word in everything that's being done.

And ignorance of the law is no excuse now. And the word is genocide. That word is heavy, heavy actions right there. Under the kanawai of the law of these lands, it's even more heavy. And the people have spoken pretty simple.

A lot have asked for restoration. A lot have asked for peace and friendship and just do what's right. But the people spoken, and it's pretty hard not to say anything when you hear all these alaka'i kia'i speak the truth.

And the real truth of it all is that this whole thing is a big mockery and a big show for paperwork, for commercials, for civil beat, for media. It's all a play. And everybody knows it's a play. That's why the kia'i step up.

You destroy our medicines. You destroy our way of living. Even to protocols, Colonel, even to protocols of the ha'akoa being taught when chain of command is being exchange of command with the ha'akoa protocol, which is the kanaka maoli and protocol for the ali'i nui, the king of these lands. And that is the facts.

Because ignorance of the law is no excuse, and the laws of these lands say who is responsible, who is responsible for the people, the land, the chiefs, everyone, the food, the water. The law says so.

And under that Kanawai Malamahoe, it says so, who is the root. I just wanted to say eo ekua nakapaia kia'i. And aloha nui and aloha kou malie. Aloha.

## Katherine Kealoha

Aloha,

I am writing to submit my personal comment regarding the military's retention of training land on O'ahu. Throughout my entire lifetime, the Army has held these lands for training, effectively excluding those of us raised here from accessing them. Makua in particular has been the site of many live fire trainings, and in recent memory controlled burnings became uncontrolled threatening already extremely endangered populations of native plants and animals in the area. The trainings done in these areas leave them highly unsafe, with unexploded ordinance a major concern. Another 65 years of this will only compound the issue. Rather than extending the lease, these areas should be returned to the descendants of the original occupants and surrounding community, and the army should instead focus their efforts in supporting us in undoing the damage that has been done. I personally have no access to the 'ili of ko'iahi, who we dance for, and no idea if the small leaf maile named for her still exists. Even if it takes my entire lifetime to make these lands safe, it would be worth it for our future generations to have safe access to ancestral lands. The greatest threat facing my children is not a physical enemy that will storm our shores, but instead climate change, disappearing watersheds and a lack of resources. The army retaining these lands would only put us in a more precarious position, as we would not have access to valuable lands to restore watersheds and increase production of food. I hope that the army seriously considers these concerns and revises their plans.

## CJ Kee

Hello,

I'm a resident of O'ahu, an attorney, a Korean American, the daughter of a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, and the granddaughter of a U.S. Navy WWII veteran. I strongly oppose the U.S.' political, economic, cultural, and military presence in Hawai'i. I oppose the renewal of these leases. Entirely. The Army should not and does not have any entitlement to these lands, and is clearly not the best steward of them- under any framework one might use.

I realize that my email can and will be distilled down to a single "no" which is why I choose to branch out from the specific EIS parameters you've requested. I oppose not only the environmental harm that the leases enable to the specific lands under review in this EIS but also the widespread harm that U.S. military presence does to Hawai'i through bringing foreign (yes, foreign) troops here to pollute, use resources, and drastically manipulate the local economy to the detriment of Hawai'i residents - for instance, the housing market. Who does this serve? What true "security" would Army retention of these lands bring to the land itself, to the people here, or even the troops themselves? It boggles the mind how the Army did become a lessee of lands in trust for Hawaiians and the public in the first place. Truly, what a tenuous link (if any) there is between the Army's purposes and public good.

These lands do not belong to the Army, and never will. It's a travesty that they have been used like this, and unjust that the people with the truest relationship with them have been cut off from caring for them, from continuing their cultural practices.

Do not renew these leases. It doesn't serve the trust beneficiaries one iota.

CJ Kee



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**From:** CJ Kee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 23:12  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS public comment on O'ahu leases

Hello,

I'm a resident of O'ahu, an attorney, a Korean American, the daughter of a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, and the granddaughter of a U.S. Navy WWII veteran. I strongly oppose the U.S.' political, economic, cultural, and military presence in Hawai'i. I oppose the renewal of these leases. Entirely. The Army should not and does not have any entitlement to these lands, and is clearly not the best steward of them- under any framework one might use.

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CJ Kee  
(808) 209-0365

Finch Kehoe

I support giving the native islanders back their land or at the very least offering at fair market value.



## Merania kekaula

My name is Merania Kekaula and I support the movement demanding Hawaiian land be returned to the rightful owners from the land grabbing US military at Kahuku training area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho training area and Makua military res. on Oahu. More importantly what is your reason for writing up an eis? The community doesn't want the military erecting their radar system in Kahuku; we are adamantly opposed to your radar system for obvious health issues being one of the most important reasons; rather the military needs to fix the red Hill disaster where leakage of fuel threatens the water system for many communities. Clean up your mess and get OUT!! We don't want anymore of your anti-citizenry agenda; leaving thousands upon thousands upon thousands of American citizens in Afghanistan as your latest atrocity on your own people; leaving them behind enemy lines; the zenith of treachery by your commander in chief! Give the land back to the Hawaiians and get the hell out of the state of Hawaii!

## Kiana Kelae

"Aloha. My name is Kiana Kelae, and I am calling to leave testimony to oppose extended military leases in Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. Sadly, all indigenous land should be free from the military, but for now I want to focus on my Hawaii. I care about it a lot for my kids benefit to experience the land that was I never got to experience. You know, like I've only experienced Makua valley access from Malama Makua and it is beautiful, is all of our Hawaiian people were able to experience that, I think it would change their perspective on how the military should not occupy Hawaii anymore. It's been too long. I do not agree. Thank you. "

## Kara Kelai

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The land has been desecrated enough. It is time for the US Military to clean up the land and head back to the US continent where they belong. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental

impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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**From:** Kara Kelai  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kara Kelai  
**Date:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 22:07:23 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O’ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Kara Kelai

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

I AM: A resident of O’ahu  
A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO BECAUSE...

The land has been desecrated enough. It is time for the US Military to clean up the land and head back to the US continent where they belong.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai’i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai’i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai’i courts have

also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina.

Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will

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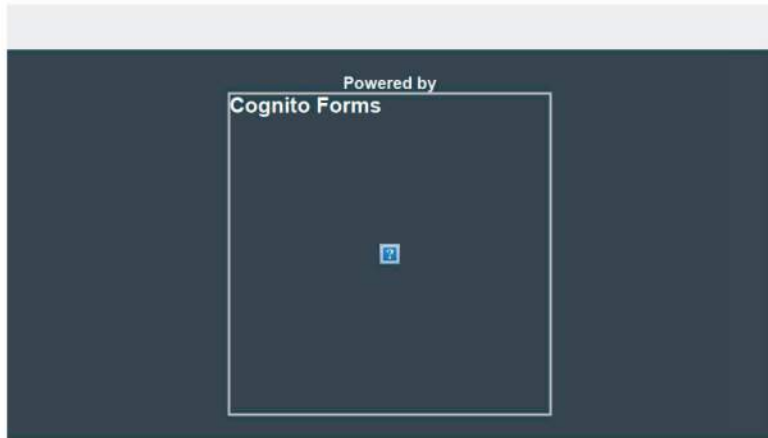
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therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.





## Mabel Ann Keliioomalu

It is unacceptable for Training on Oahu. The Federal & State has a judiciary duty to Native Hawaiians as they wait on the list of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Land. Appalling yet truthful. Priority and Resolutions should be made for the host populous of these islands, yet they die waiting for land that they can call their own. Ideally would be if Native Hawaiians can live equally to those in the military, exclusively with their own shopping centers, medical centers, and recreation parks. There is no shame in asking for more and more, an exclusive Ford Island and a Bridge to access, while many live on the beach, yes it's no new that the homeless population consists of Hawaiians. Bomb Kahoolawe, no clean it up, move to Makua Valley pristine aina to damage and abuse a valuable asset. There is the land elsewhere desserts can be used to destroy where no one lives. The military is bad neighbors, they do not clean their sites, look at Bellows's Nike site. They consistently lie to us all, no uranium at Pohakuloa, they found it there now. We are on an island with many people do your training elsewhere in the world. No more land for you. Hawaiians are in dire need of housing, put that as a priority federal help to put affordable housing up.

There are many other issues, air space and the continual noise pollution over communities. Who monitors that. FAA then why is it we hear it all night. The military vehicles are busting up our roads, do they help federally to repair it. The water here is precious they have golf courses that are watered with our drinking water. Why? Because they have exclusive rights to defending our liberty. We as Hawaiians have been taken advantage all these years. My father died waiting for his home at 80 years full-blooded Hawaiian, I have been waiting since 1984. No more land deals with long term leases. Just stop it all. Go elsewhere to train.

## Sadhbh Keller McLeer

America could be a very wonderful nation, but as of now the red and white stripes stand for violence. Clean up the horrible history we've written, free the Hawaiian people of military occupation.

## Emmeline Kelley

Please do not extend the lease that leads to US army occupation of Hawaiian land. Native Hawaiians are already being forced off of their lands because of tourism and rising expenses of living on Oahu - extending this land occupation will only make it harder on them. Please do not do this- military occupation is just an extension of violent colonialism that the US has inflicted on Hawaiians for centuries. Be part of the movement that begins to end this and give the land back. Please.

## Emmeline Kelley

Please don't extend the military occupation of Hawaiian lands on Oahu. Native Hawaiians are already being pushed off their lands by tourism and rising costs of living on the island, and extended military occupation will only exacerbate the problem. Military occupation in Hawaii is an extension of the violent colonialism inflicted in Hawaii by the US - please be part of the movement that halts this violence by giving the land back.

## Jonah Keohokapu

Mahalo. Aloha, everybody. My name is Jonah Keohokapu, a lifelong resident of this beautiful place we call Wahiawa in the district of Kukaniloko. I want to address the elephant in the room again. United States of America and American military illegally occupy Hawai'i. I want to say that again. United States of America and their military illegally occupy Hawai'i. There is no mechanism of conveyance. There is no treaty of annexation that can affirm the Hawaiian Kingdom of seceding its sovereignty to United States of America.

So that's the big elephant in the room. No decision should be made, because America, the fake state of Hawaii, doesn't have kuleana for this 'aina. We do as a people there. We are the aloha 'aina of this place. Okay? So that's the first thing.

Secondly, 100 percent not renew any lease at all. These lands are for our people. These lands are for our community. These lands are for our keiki, to benefit us. Right now, these lands are benefiting endless war, corruption. The military has continued to destroy, desecrate, and poison this place with no disregard to our people at all.

My whole family is in the military, and I love them for that. They put their lives on the line to support your endless war. But enough is enough. This is our time to come back and malama our mama, this place. We need to take care of her, because America, United States of America, and the fake state of Hawai'i has never taken that kuleana to be pono.

So right now, I'm just saying right now, please do not renew any lease to the American military.

Mahalo.

## Courtney Ann Keohulua

"Aloha mai kakou. My name is Courtney Ann Keohulua and I am a resident of Kaneohe, O'ahu, but my family hails from Molokai and also have big island. I'm calling in regards to the extension of military bases on the lines of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. I'm calling in regards to these extensions, because I believe that they should not be granted an extension, but these leases allow for the further desecration of our natural resources and they inhibit the growth of our natural habitats of our Native Hawaiian plant and animal species. Allowing an extension on these leases will continue to disrupt the lives of our local community. And I believe overall that the military has wrongfully leased these lands from the state of Hawaii since 1964. when the lease expires in 2029 this lot and should not Be released. Again, It should be immediate be restored to the public. They should have any questions, please feel free to give me a call back. My phone number is XXX-XXX-XXXX. Again, my name is Courtney Ann and I'm a resident of the islands of Oahu and I am strongly opposed to the restoration of leases for the military. mahalo. "

## Kea Keolanui

"Hi this is Kea Keolanui. Phone number XXX-XXX-XXXX and I would like the environmental impact statements for Pohakuloa training facility to focus on soil erosion and basically the impact on the soil and the overall terrain in Pohakuloa due to the explosions. We've driven by in seen multiple tornado-like events that are picking up dust because of the lack of vegetation, which is being you know, decimated because they are driving on the vegetation. They're using explosive material on the vegetation. And at this point, we don't see any replanting from the road and that point of view. And so my question would be, are they actively keeping an eye on this and are they actively trying to prevent this soil erosion, which also, you know, causes more land to be barren with different invasive species and those invasive species are then easily caught on fire, which we saw happen here in Waimea just recently. And so I do oppose the Pohakuloa training facility renewing their lease here on Hawaii Island. Thank you. "

Harry Kershner

Please.

**From:** [Harry Kershner](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Refuse to re-lease  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 8:07:53 AM

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Please.



By Kevin Matthew Kaunuali'i Kiesel

I submit these comments as a Kānaka Maoli, of indigenous native Hawaiian descent. I grew up in Wahiawa on Oahu, near the Poamoho state owned lands. I moved to Seattle Washington in 2007 as there are few opportunities offered to me or Native Hawaiians in the land that I grew up in.

From the early days of Hawaii becoming a territory of the U.S. government, the military has occupied the Hawaiian islands through unlawful coercion and without a treaty with the Kingdom of Hawaii. In the early time of the U.S. takeover, illegal actions in aggression toward the existing Hawaiian Kingdom were ultimately supported by U.S. military presence.

Since that time, native Hawaiians have not had a treaty agreement with the U.S. government. There has never been such a treaty that constitutes a land agreement (or lease) between a sovereign Hawaiian government and the U.S. to operate on the land currently used for military training.

Through the actions of the U.S. government and its military, the ability for native Hawaiians to independently govern and subsist have been taken away. Their actions caused indigenous peoples to become dependent on the U.S. government, which has not recognized the sovereignty of native Hawaiians and their descendants. The U.S. government has treaties with hundreds of indigenous federally-recognized Tribes throughout the continental U.S. There are no such treaties with indigenous native Hawaiians and no federal recognition of a sovereign Hawaiian government.

The U.S. Army is currently capable of meeting its mission with the use of training lands, but does so without benefit to indigenous native Hawaiian people and has not proposed a means to compensate them according to current real estate market value of the property.

This EIS provides no alternative that includes consultation with the indigenous people of Hawaii. No lease or agreement for use of training land in Hawaii should be renewed with the state that does not offer compensation or resulting payment to directly benefit indigenous native Hawaiian people. The decision to renew such an agreement should be in the hands of indigenous native Hawaiian people who must be federally recognized as a sovereign nation as other native Tribes are across the continental U.S.

## Punahele Kikipi

If the 'ainas on the land, then I would never run. If we got to bring the flings on Maui pulling down the sun. They disrespect my culture, and they claim to be pono. They start the development, defend the hikelolo. You know weroll. We kill the presses on the truck. And we'll tell the military that we want Makua back. Protect Mauna Kea. Protect Pohakuloa. They try to silence us, but my people taking over.

More knowledge, more wisdom, all these young Hawaiians driven. Because our ancestors signed the ku and petition, east side, west side, any side, and every side. It doesn't matter anyway, because we got the Hawaiian pride. Love for my people, not a heart full of hatred. How can the non-Hawaiians say our sacred sites ain't sacred? On the dark side killer. Shake your uliuli. Hawaiian patriots say for making the system huli.

So right now, I'd like to say I am opposed to all lease extensions. Take no action. Give the land back. Clean up your mess. You guys have no jurisdiction. There is no treaty of annexation. And stop the bombing. Demilitarize Oceania. Pack your guys' stuff and go. We don't want you guys here. My name is Punahele. I am from Makaha, Hawai'i on the west side. I grew up seeing the effects of your guys' training on top of the 'aina and on my people. I've seen multiple valleys on the Waianae coast burned down because of what you guys did. I've had family kicked off of our ancestral homeland at Makua for you guys to destroy our land. And we're sick of it.

And clean up your guys' mess. No think you guys can just skate away with any -- without you don't taking care your action. Hawai'i is a place of aloha. And after all the aloha that we have constantly you guys, the least you guys can do is clean up.

And I hope you guys clean up. I hope you guys fix this 'aina. I hope you guys make this place pono. But you guys got to work with us and listen to us and not just use this as a performative platform. Let's make change. Do the right thing. Stop the lease extensions. Take no action. Clean up your mess. Mahalo nui.

## Darius Kila

Aloha mai kakou. My name is Darius Keali'ikahapuni Iehua Kila, and I reside from Waianae moku. I serve in the Nanakuli-Mailii Neighborhood Board, but I speak as just a member and not necessarily for the Board entirely. I come before you folks in strong opposition for the extension of military land for Hawai'i land. Far too often, my community of Waianae moku has borne the burden of not just military but everything throughout Hawai'i and Oahu, specifically for Honolulu County. Folks, back in 1970s and whatever backward guilds have leased the military land for a dollar a year is absolutely insulting. That is a reserve for Hawaiians in itself, and the fact that beneficiaries have seen nothing but benefit -- no benefit from the leasing of its lands is absolutely evil. I'd also like to comment the fact that the military was so quick to change their public input session to a Zoom session is also very appalling in itself. My community has often taken the burden in opposition against the military, and the state and the military has always not listened to my community. I'm not anti-military, and I understand what you folks do, but Hawai'i itself makes up the smallest part of the U.S., but we house 80 percent of the most endangered species that exist in the United States. We have constantly seen the bad effect of what you folks have done to the lands in my community. Makua itself has been bombed for as long as I've grown up, and I've watched my kupuna protest that from as long as it's been. So I'd like to go on record for the work that has been done prior to the work that is continuing to be done. I am in strong opposition against the extension of military land leases here in Waianae moku and through Hawai'i.

## Gwen Kim

"Aloha as a retired Social Work administrator and lifelong resident I'm adamantly against new military leases on the thousands of acres to continue this fossilized commitment to endless war. We need to pivot to life and address the existential threat of global warming and stop feeding, fueling the military industrial complex. My name is Gwen Kim. And for the record. Mahalo "

## Gwen Kim

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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From: [Gwen Kim](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Gwen Kim  
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021 14:48:54 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Gwen Kim
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Ka'a'awa 96730
I AM:	A resident of Waiʻanae, Kahuku, or Poamoho
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In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ʻāina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that

the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



## Soon Kim

Aloha. My name is Soon Kim and I'm a resident of Oahu. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. Destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this plan should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo Nui

## Jessica Kim-Jones

The fact that so much Hawaiian land is being leased for \$1 to the US Army is clearly indicative of the corruption going on by the US Army. It is obvious that someone is doing illegal acts and it will soon be made evident. Operation Northwood exposed how the US army was aware of the incoming attack on pearl harbor but still allowed their soldiers to be massacred so that FDR can have a reason to get the American people can enter WW2, while he was hiding away at Camp David. If you are a part of the US Army and you are kept ignorant of Operation Northwoods, you can easily find the official government file and educate yourself. The people of the US army are expendable as kamikaze pilots according to Operation Northwoods and other government files. If you have not read these official and readily available files you cannot deny this truth. The corruption will soon be exposed.

## Hideki Kimukai

"Aloha. My name is Hideki Kimukai. I'm a resident on Oahu, Moiliili and I oppose the lease extension of the Army, Makua, and other facilities here in the state of Hawaii. Thank you. "



Aya Kimura

I am opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands (Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho) and I support the "No Action Alternative." The Army needs to do the clean-up of these lands. I also request that the military does a thorough investigation of the social, ecological and cultural impacts of its historical and ongoing operations in the islands. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Aya Kimura

**From:** 平田 あや [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 15:52  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army's retention of Hawaii's land

I am opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands (Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho) and I support the "No Action Alternative." The Army needs to do the clean-up of these lands.

I also request that the military does a thorough investigation of the social, ecological and cultural impacts of its historical and ongoing operations in the islands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aya Kimura

## Anna King

The land you occupy should be given back to the indigenous people of Hawaii. That holding is vast. Even half would be more than adequate for training purposes. The amount you pay for it is unfair. The damage to the environment is unconscionable given the climate crisis we find ourselves in. The US citizens need protection not from foreign entities, but from the climate crisis. Food shortages and water rights are upon us. Train your soldiers in Kansas, where there isn't a single good thing left. We all know the only reason we took Hawaii was to strategically place ourselves in the Pacific. What is a war going to do to harm us that the pandemic, wildfires, droughts, and ever climbing temps won't do? The military industrial complex is a corporation and like all corporations you ruin everything you touch.

**From:** [Anna King](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army training land retention  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:38:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_8699.jpg](#)

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This site will not submit my comment. So here you go...



10:24

atloahueis.commentinput.com

ZIP: 04982

Email: Anna.king3881@gmail.com

**Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS - Scoping**

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« Edit

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U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Public Affairs Office

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**Miya King**

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It is destructive to the natural environment. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an

environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those

potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Miya King  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Miya King  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 20:42:56 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Miya King

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

It is destructive to the natural environment.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for

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These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

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## Candice Kirby

Native Hawaiian lands are currently being desecrated by the US Military occupation and activities. The misuse of these lands is reprehensible and the US Military's heavy presence on the island of Oahu and all islands is unwelcome. Native Hawaiians and Residents struggle everyday to find housing and work numerous jobs just to afford to stay in Hawaii. Many Native Hawaiians have had to move elsewhere due in large part to the US Military occupation and acres of lands that could be used to affordably house Hawaiians.

It is disgusting that the US Military pays \$1 to lease these lands for generations while Hawaiians go homeless. As a tax paying permanent resident of Hawaii I request the lease extension be denied and that the lands be returned to better use.

## Michael Kirk-Kuwaye

I strongly oppose the lease extension of State-owned land for Army training at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR) and support the "no action" option for the following reasons:

1. Destruction of Land. Live-fire training and ground churning exercises desecrate the land and are counter to the 'āina- and pono-based values of Hawai'i. These values not only imbue the State motto, but also frame discussions on high stakes community issues, such as at the recent Townhall on Tourism ( Kākou, 8/26/21, PBS Hawai'i) in which community and industry leaders agreed that the values of 'ohana-'āina-kuleana should guide solutions to tourism's problems.

2. Machines of War Invading Communities. Military convoys and helicopters—too close, too loud— thunder through rural Ko'olau Loa/North Shore coastal towns and valleys, which are in the geographic training triangle of KTA-Poamoho-Kaneohe Marine Corp Base. As cross-branch military training ramps up, many more island communities will find themselves experiencing battlefield like conditions, if not already, as military bases occupy nearly all quadrants of O'ahu.

3. Poor Stewardship of Land. At KTA, the fast spreading and extremely resistant devil weed was introduced and not managed such that it has spread beyond KTA and is becoming an island-wide botanical threat.

4. Loss of Land for Agriculture and Housing. These State-owned lands being leased to the Army could be better used for agriculture and housing. These lands if freed from Army control would address the critical issues of food sustainability, especially evident during this pandemic, and affordable housing, the dire lack of which is driving local people to homelessness and out-of-state exodus.

5. Unresponsive and Unchecked Actions. The Army, and military in general, have a history of disregarding the community's will: phone calls to "hotlines" on aircraft noise go unanswered; community members' pleas for access and desisting 'āina-hostile actions are stonewalled for decades at Mākua valley/MMR; formal recommendations by Neighborhood Boards and Sustainable Communities Plans calling for limiting military impacts in their communities are ignored.

Hawai'i need only look at the destruction of other island environments that have a large U.S. military presence, such as in the Philippines and Okinawa, to see its future, especially as U.S. attention pivots to Asia and the Pacific. Hawai'i is already at a tipping point in environmental and quality of life degradation. Ending Army leases of State-owned land now is a critical first step in restoring Hawai'i's environment and taking care of its people.



## Tc Knowles

the U.S. Army's land lease is up for renewal this year and the local residents of Hawaii, included and especially emphasized in this statement are the native Hawaiian voices, have made it clear that the army occupies too great a land area and causes too great a civil disturbance to warrant their continues occupancy. I urge you, as they do, to reduce the amount of land area utilized as well as to gift land back to native peoples and conservation initiatives.

## Emma Koa

Aloha. My name is Emma Koa. I was born and raised in Waimanalo and lived in Hawai'i my whole life. And I just wanted to come on and say that I definitely think that you guys should take no action and not renew any leases to any "aina here in Hawai'i, not just because of, you know, we have plenty of kanaka that could be using that "aina to eat, could be using that "aina to live on. And it's kind of ridiculous that we're even having a conversation right now, you know, about what should the military do with this "aina when it's not even their "aina to decide what to do with. And it feels like I've grown up coming to all of these kinds of meetings and listening to my dad speak at stuff like this, and nobody ever -- you guys don't even care. Nothing ever comes out of these meetings. Nothing ever comes out of us coming to give testimony. Nothing comes out of us protesting.

I mean, it does, you know. We are united as a -- as a people, but it feels like no action on your end, on the military's end, on America's end ever -- ever happens. And it's just a lot of talk.

And it feels like these meetings are fruitless sometimes, where we have to keep showing up, and we have to keep coming and listening to each other speak and telling each other that, you know.

Like, I don't come to these meetings for you guys. I come to these meetings to tell my people hang in there and keep doing what we do and keep giving testimony. And even though it's really tiring, and even though it seems fruitless sometimes, we got to keep doing it.

So definitely a huge no on the military being on any of Hawai'i's land. It's always de-occupy Hawai'i, demilitarize Hawai'i. Yeah. I mean, I would be really surprised if anybody gave any kind of comments other than that, to be honest. So daghang salamat. Have a great evening. A hui hou.

## Mark Koppel

Dear Colonel Cronin, While the August 1, 2021 Star Advertiser is a little confused, it seems as though the Army owns land in Waipio Valley, Hawaii Island. You may not be aware of this, but the Valley is one of the most sacred places on the Island. One touch of military change there will cause a (peaceful, of course) outrage from here to the Indigenous lands in Maine. You really don't want to even think about it. I suggest you give that land to the public in a sacred, undevelopable trust. I know you have a job to do, but it doesn't have to involve land sacred to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for your service. Mark A. Koppel Umauma, HI

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 1, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Don't even think of using Waipio Valley, Hawaii Island for the Army

Dear Colonel Cronin,

While the August 1, 2021 Star Advertiser is a little confused, it seems as though the Army owns land in Waipio Valley, Hawaii Island.

You may not be aware of this, but the Valley is one of the most sacred places on the Island. One touch of military change there will cause a (peaceful, of course) outrage from here to the Indigenous lands in Maine.

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Mark A. Koppel  
Umauma, HI

**Wahl, Gregory T CIV USARMY USAG (USA)**

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Thank you for your service.

Mark A. Koppel  
Umauma, HI

Lisa Koppenhaver

I do not wish to see the military continue to take advantage of the island of Oahu and it's people.

## Kaili Kosaka

Aloha,

I'm writing to provide testimony against the continued Army training land retention on O'ahu. As a child of Hawaii, born and raised, I've seen first-hand the disruptive and obtrusive presence of the Military in Hawaii. Hawaii was illegally and forcefully taken by the United States of America and the current occupation of the U.S. in Hawaii is an ongoing threat to the sovereignty of the Hawaiian people.

I believe a thorough and unbiased Environmental Impact Assessment will find the Army's use of these lands has caused significant harm to Hawaii's fragile ecosystem. The ongoing bombing at Pohakuloa and live-fire training at Makua are devastating to the environment. Other Military installations, like the leaking of fuel tanks at Red Hill, pose great risks to human and environmental health. As someone who works in conservation and specifically invasive species management, I know the Army does not place environmental concerns over that of their agenda. Army and U.S. Military action has been directly linked to the spread of invasive species in Hawaii and abroad. While I commend the work of organizations like OANRP, they do not have the authority or support from the broader Military to successfully manage and restore the extreme damage caused by Military action.

65 years ago when the lease was last up for renewal, it was a different time. With climate change concerns making headlines in the news and the fight for indigenous rights throughout the world, it is time for us to re-evaluate the need for these areas by the Army and the devastating impacts of this kind of agreement. How can we continue to place "command-readiness" over environmental and humanitarian well-being? Please end the leasing of these lands to the Military for the ridiculous amount of \$1 a year.

## Theresa Kuehu

So there are a couple of things, and I think that needs to be clarified in this whole thing, Zoom. I notice there are obviously no Hawai'i government officials there; therefore, this is not something we're addressing to any government body that says don't re-lease the land. It looks like this is scoping specifically for Army to get feedback from the community and comments. So I'm going to address the military, the Army, in that respect with regards to my comments. So there are a couple of documents that do discuss specifically the restoration that is required when the military leaves property or reconveys properties back to the lessors. And one said document comes directly from the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, National Defense, and the Part 644 with regards to real estate, the real estate handbook. So in there, it's very interesting. I learned a lot of things with regards to restoration and putting things back to the original. And I'm more curious to see the documents where the state entered into a contract with the military and what was required of the military once they de-occupy the land. Additionally, what would be nice to know is, you know, other states that have training facilities, be it Alaska or Colorado or North Carolina. I noticed that in North Carolina, they have a Special Forces training known as Robin Sage training, which happened this past March and April. It seems that it has been taking place over 60 years, and that is on private land in 21 counties. And its span is approximately 50,000 square miles. So my concern is -- what I'd like to see going forward when we get to the next phase of the EIS is, you know, how much does the Army pay to these private lands in other states or public lands in other states? Is there contracts that those details could be provided? I'm interested in if those states have also given \$1 for the 60 years that they've had training on their 50,000 acres of land. You know, renewing this contract and lease could be -- Thank you. If they're paying fair market value. And the way I look at it, with the cost of renting, leasing a home in Hawai'i because the military can draw off of COLA and raise our prices, they should be paying the same rate when it comes to leasing land. But that money -- that money has to go to the community -- DHHL, Hawaiian Homes. Hawaiians pay \$1 every year to lease the land. We pay more money to lease the land that we thrive from than foreigners are leasing. Mahalo.

## Theresa Kuehu

I just want to mahalo and --and show our aloha to our military families. You know, my -- my papa, he's 100 percent Hawaiian. He served in military. He's buried at Punchbowl. My father was also Army, and my maternal grandmother and grandfather were both Army. So it's not anything personal against our military.

But we have to understand that in Hawai'i our land is so much different, and we will fight for her no matter what the cost, that we want you as individuals, as people, but we fight the machine, and that at the end of the day, we just want to know we aloha all of our military staff. We love you as people. But this whole thing with the war games and using our land to perpetuate that negative, we cannot anymore. And we would love to just help transition. You have eight years to transition, to restore her. And the community here, even though we didn't make that opala, although we didn't hurt her, we are here to help fix it. And we will come out in droves to support the cleanup efforts. We will. Mahalo.

## Sunnie Kupahu

To the United State Army in Hawaii, I want to say on behalf of myself and my family, No to renewing the lease in 2029 to the United States Army for Makua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa Poamoho. The United States Needs to return lease lands to the Native Hawaiians for we do not have no where to live because real-estate here is over a Million Dollars for a condo or home. Hawaiians are struggling for food and housing. This state does nothing but take more land and sell more land to make profit. United State is occupying already a occupied Kingdom. Which is illegally overthrown by greedy foreigners. The state of hawaii ride off of the back of Hawaiian culture to make all its money wile Hawaiians are houseless. The state lets Oha and department of Hawaiian homes budgets it's lands and finances. Yes Hawaiians are on a long list of Hawaiian homestead to receive property. Hawaiians are dying here. We need the lease lands to live off of. So not to renewing the leases of Makua. We need the army to clean it up so we can go home to our lands. Leave Hawaii United States. All you have done was destroy our land, our language, our peaceful way of life. Sunnie Kupahu

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

**From:** [Sunnie Phillips](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No to renewing leases  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 13:19:40 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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To the United State Army in Hawaii,  
I want to say on behalf of myself and my family, No to renewing the lease in 2029 to the United States Army for Makua, Kahuku and Kawaioloa Poamoho. The United States Needs to return lease lands to the Native Hawaiians for we do not have no where to live because real-estate here is over a Million Dollars for a condo or home. Hawaiians are struggling for food and housing. This state does nothing but take more land and sell more land to make profit. United State is occupying already a occupied Kingdom. Which is illegally overthrown by greedy foreigners. The state of hawaii ride off of the back of Hawaiian culture to make all its money wile Hawaiians are houseless. The state lets Oha and department of Hawaiian homes budgets it's lands and finances. Yes Hawaiians are on a long list of Hawaiian homestead to receive property. Hawaiians are dying here. We need the lease lands to live off of.

So not to renewing the leases of Makua. We need the army to clean it up so we can go home to our lands.

Leave Hawaii United States. All you have done was destroy our land, our language, our peaceful way of life.

Sunnie Kupahu

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone < Caution-<https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/?src=iOS> >

## Paul Kuykendall

Aloha,My name is Paul Kuykendall and I live in Pahoa, Hawaii. I am against Army leased land renewal in Hawaii. There are many issues with the military leases in Hawaii: Unexploded ordinance (UXO) clean up, depleted Uranium and other toxic contamination of air, land and ground water, invasive species, cultural sites and the cultural significance of Pohakuloa itself. The military controls nearly 133,000-acres at Pohakuloa. 23,000 acres of this is leased from the state for \$1 total for 65 years –1964- 2029. These so called “ceded lands” are crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom before the U.S. overthrow in 1893. These lands are in the ahupua’a of Humu’ula (crown), Kaohe and Pu’uanahulu (government lands). Besides the 23,000 acres of leased lands at PTA, 758 acres were obtained by an executive order of Governor Samuel Wilder King in 1956 and 84,000 acres by a Presidential Executive Order of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. These lands by executive order were turned over to the US military without any compensation. More recently, in the early 2000s, an additional 23,000 acres of land near Waiki’i Ranch was purchased by the military from Parker Ranch. But the Strykers are no longer in Hawaii. They are in Washington state. More than 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii Island alone, totaling more than 250,000-acres that are in need of clean up. Sincerely, Paul Kuykendall

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**From:** Paul Kuykendall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 18:29  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu ATLR EIS Comments

Aloha,

My name is Paul Kuykendall and I live in Pahoa, Hawaii. I am against Army leased land renewal in Hawaii. There are many issues with the military leases in Hawaii: Unexploded ordinance (UXO) clean up, depleted Uranium and other toxic contamination of air, land and ground water, invasive species, cultural sites and the cultural significance of Pohakuloa itself. The military controls nearly 133,000-acres at Pohakuloa. 23,000 acres of this is leased from the state for \$1 total for 65 years –1964– 2029. These so called “ceded lands” are crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom before the U.S. overthrow in 1893. These lands are in the ahupua’a of Humu’ula (crown), Kaohe and Pu’uanahulu (government lands). Besides the 23,000 acres of leased lands at PTA, 758 acres were obtained by an executive order of Governor Samuel Wilder King in 1956 and 84,000 acres by a Presidential Executive Order of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. These lands by executive order were turned over to the US military without any compensation. More recently, in the early 2000s, an additional 23,000 acres of land near Waiki’i Ranch was purchased by the military from Parker Ranch. But the Strykers are no longer in Hawaii. They are in Washington state. More than 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii Island alone, totaling more than 250,000-acres that are in need of clean up.

Sincerely,

Paul Kuykendall

Mariah L

I absolutely oppose this. Give the Hawaiian Natives their land back.

An extension of these leases will allow further damage to the natural resources of these areas, destroy the habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

## Kari Leah Labrador

Mahalo to everyone who has testified and given their mana'o and ike. It's been received and greatly appreciated. I especially want to mahalo those who have led the way and continue to fight for what is pono. My name is Kari Leah Labrador. I am kanakamaoli. I live below KTA. I have family members that have served and continue to serve in the military. I speak on behalf of my entire 'ohana, past and present, as well as future. I am here today to say no to any and all lease land extensions. We say no to any revisions on any leases except for an exit plan. Pack up. Cleanup. And get out. I am appalled at the audacity of the U.S. military, our congressional leaders, and anyone else who continues to speak as though we are not aware that we are speaking of stolen land, land that was stolen for the Hawaiian Kingdom and kanaka maoli, land that you want to take more of. As everyone is well aware, Hawai'i is the leading capital of endangered endemic species of the world. We are also the leaders of invasive species. As a kanaka maoli, I am an endangered species. A never-growing U.S. military complex, unscrupulous foreign investors, as well as foreign and domestic tourism are the invasive species that is strangling out our very existence. The U.S. military currently occupies almost 24 percent of Oahu. They are the most heavily funded military on the planet in the history of man. And with this being said, they are also the biggest polluters of the world. And Hawai'i has had to pay the biggest brunt of this. The Native Hawaiians have also had to pay the highest cost, with our lands being taken away, poisoned, and being priced out of Hawai'i. We cannot compete with the funding of the U.S. military when it comes to housing, but you are being funded by our tax-paying money. The irony is not lost on us.... The human, social, and environmental cost of militarization is exorbitant, and it disproportionately is being paid by natives and their descendants. Again, I say no to any land lease extensions, and instead, have an exit plan so that you can pack up, clean up, and get out. It is not the door hitting you in the butt as you leave. That is our collective boot. We do not want you here. Mahalo.

## Mary Lacques

Scoping comments for Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State lands Aloha, My name is Mary Lacques and I am a resident of Hale'iwa, O'ahu. I am submitting comments in adamant opposition to the Army's retention of any of lands at Mākuā, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho, and am in strong support of the "No Action Alternative" requiring the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands and allow the current three leases to expire. In my 20 years of written and in-person testimony at U.S. military public scoping hearings, I have introduced myself as a preschool teacher, and remind those present that we teach young children that when leaving an area in the classroom, they need to be respectful and clean it up for the betterment of others before moving on to another area. The residents of these islands need to hear your clean-up plan for the military's toxic legacy of 115 military installations with Hazardous Sites in Hawai'i. Under the "No Alternative Action" in the EIS scoping document, the Army would be required to fulfill its long overdue obligation to clean up these lands. As a North Shore resident, I have deep concerns for the spread of Devil Weed at the Kahuku Training Area (KTA), which was introduced to KTA from military vehicles from Guam. I was present at a meeting in August of 2019 between U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, Oahu Army Natural Resource Program, the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and community leaders to discuss organic, non-toxic alternatives to the use of glyphosate-based herbicides for the eradication of Devil Weed. Witnessing the Army's lack of commitment to community concerns and poor communication makes it clear to me that the EIS should address the need to manage this infestation at KTA with full transparency, including proposed biocontrol proposals. Community engagement should be a top priority of the military. Aloha, Mary Lacques [REDACTED]



**From:** [Mary Lacques](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Support for the No Action Alternative for the State lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaiiloa-Poamoho  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:53:31 PM

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Scoping comments for Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State lands

Aloha,

My name is Mary Lacques and I am a resident of Hale'iwa, O'ahu.

I am submitting comments in adamant opposition to the Army's retention of any of lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, and am in strong support the "No Action Alternative" requiring the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands and allow the current three leases to expire.

In my 20 years of written and in-person testimony at U.S. military public scoping hearings, I have introduced myself as a preschool teacher, and remind those present that we teach young children that when leaving an area in the classroom, they need to be respectful and clean it up for the betterment of others before moving on to another area. The residents of these islands need to hear your clean-up plan for the military's toxic legacy of 115 military installations with Hazardous Sites in Hawai'i. Under the "No Alternative Action" in the EIS scoping document, the Army would be required to fulfill its long overdue obligation to clean up these lands.

As a North Shore resident, I have deep concerns for the spread of Devil Weed at the Kahuku Training Area (KTA), which was introduced to KTA from military vehicles from Guam. I was present at a meeting in August of 2019 between U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, Oahu Army Natural Resource Program, the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and community leaders to discuss organic, non-toxic alternatives to the use of glyphosate-based herbicides for the eradication of Devil Weed. Witnessing the Army's lack of commitment to community concerns and poor communication makes it clear to me that the EIS should address the need to manage this infestation at KTA with full transparency, including proposed biocontrol proposals.

Community engagement should be a top priority of the military.

Aloha,

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## Koalani Lagareta

Aloha Kakou,

I strongly oppose the renewal of any and all military leased land in the Hawaiian Kingdom. There is an indefensible history of misuse and mistreatment of Hawaiian land and people by the US government military, first and foremost the illegal occupation of our sovereign island nation and imprisonment of our queen.

For the people of Hawaii, the land is more than a commodity, more than a resource, it is an extension of our ohana, our families, our selves. The winds, rains, plants, creatures, springs, beaches, seas and mountains are living members of our community, with names and personalities and stories of their own.

When you shoot up our land, you shoot up our family. When you bomb our land, you bomb our family. When you pollute and poison our land, you poison our family.

The time is long overdue for the US military to clean up their messes and LEAVE. We don't want you here playing war games. We don't need you here "protecting" us when we need protection FROM you. We want our land back. No new leases.

Land back.  
Land back.  
Land back.

Mahalo,  
Koalani Lagareta

## Koalani Lagaretti

All right. My name is Koalani Lagaretti no ka 'aina uluwehi o Manoa, and I wanted to just first mahalo everybody for being here. And so many of you are far more eloquent than I am, and I just appreciate everybody's mana'o andtime.

So I wanted to just start off by paraphrasing a Hawaiian hero of mine, George Helm. You know, there is kanaka, and there is 'aina. And one does not supersede the other. The breath of kanaka is the breath of 'aina. Kanaka is the caretaker of the 'aina, which maintains our life and nourishes our soul. And therefore, 'aina is sacred.

I strongly oppose the renewal of any and all military leases in the Hawaiian Kingdom. There has been an indefensible history of misuse and mistreatment of Hawaiian land and people by the U.S. government, military first and foremost, the illegal occupation of our sovereign island nation and imprisonment of our queen.

To the people of Hawai'i, the land is more than a commodity or a resource. It's an extension of our 'ohana, of ourselves. The winds, the rains, the plants, the creatures are all living members of our community, with names and personalities and stories of their own.

When you shoot up our 'aina, you shoot up our family. When you bomb our 'aina, you bomb our family. When you pollute and poison our 'aina, you poison our family.

The time is long overdue for the U.S. military to clean up their messes and leave. We don't want you playing war games here anymore. We don't need you here protecting us. We need protection from you. We want our land back. Land back. Land back. Mahalo and aloha 'aina.

## Mary Lagomarsino

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When leases expire in 2029, these lands should be immediately restored to the public.

## Marygail Lakner

I oppose the extension of military leases in Hawaii that have been illegally leasing the land for only \$1 a year since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, the military should vacate the area permanently and return the land to the local native community.

## Melanie Lander

Hawaii's environment is under intense pressure. I believe these lands should be restored and opened up to the public for their long term stewardship. It would be beautiful to see the cultural sites in these areas open for unrestricted cultural practice and education. If these lands were to be transferred back to the state or counties I'd request that military funding be used to remediate the contamination present.

## Kevin Landers

"Aloha. My name is Kevin Landers. I'm a resident on the island of Oahu. Thanks for the prompt about what I'd like to see in the environmental impact statement. I'm grateful to have been educated on, you know, the scope of what environment and impact mean and should me and especially in the context of Hawaii and its occupation. You know, the federal government, the United States has explicitly acknowledged the harm that was done in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom. And you know the history of the ownership of these land, I think should be primary in the environmental impact statement for the leases at Kahuku, Poamoho, and Makua. You know, the President as well related, you know, the federal government. Occupation of the island of [unintelligible], Kahoolawe. And yeah, I just feel like as a community. And understand that the army is a member of this community. We're in the 21st century. And we've got a great opportunity to be better members of community to one another with this environmental impact statement. So that's what I'd love to see. Thank you so much.

## Bryanna Lantych

My name is Bryanna and I am a resident of AZ and I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

Extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants, animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

-Bryanna

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding the lease on Hawaii (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:48:15 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: Bryanna Lantych [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 5:01 AM  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Regarding the lease on Hawaii

My name is Bryanna and I am a resident of AZ and I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

Extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants, animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

-Bryanna

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Kawena Lauriano

To whom it may concern, I am vehemently against the U.S. military continuing to retain and occupy lands in all areas of Hawai‘i. Not only does this destroy the ‘āina, it also restricts Native Hawaiians and other residents from accessing the lands for cultural, spiritual, and recreational use. Even after the military "leaves", the land is often so poisoned that it is uninhabitable and cannot be used (Kaho‘olawe, Mākua, etc.).

The continued presence of the U.S. military in Hawai‘i is also contributing to the housing shortages in Hawai‘i. Military personnel with their living stipends are buying or renting housing outside of the bases, which has contributed significantly to driving Native Hawaiians and kama‘āina out of Hawai‘i.

Should the U.S. military disregard the wishes of Native Hawaiians and continue their "retention" of public lands, they should be paying Hawai‘i the fair market rate for use of these lands rather than their current lease of \$1/65-99 years and this money should go to the betterment of Native Hawaiians via housing, education, health care, etc.

## Michael Lawler

Don't re-lease to the US military. It pollutes air, water, land and creates unhealthy noise, ultimately diminishing the quality of life of the citizens on whose land it squats. Diplomacy, not antagonism.

**From:** [Michael Lawler](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.L.D.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 0:50:48 AM

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Don't re-lease to the US military. It pollutes air, water, land and creates unhealthy noise, ultimately diminishing the quality of life of the citizens on whose land it squats. Diplomacy, not antagonism.

## Erin Lawrence

Army Training Land Retention is a symbol of the ongoing colonial violence that keeps native people of Hawai'i off of their lands. This land does not belong to the Army, it belongs to the people of O'ahu.

## Krysta Lawrence

The government has been wrongfully "renting" this Hawaiian land for \$1 a year since 1964. The contract should NOT be continued and it should be returned to the Hawaiian natives it was taken from. If the contract is continued, it'll lead to further destruction of the native Hawaiian plants and animals. In addition, the military currently occupies native Hawaiian homelands which need to be returned immediately.

Maud Lawrence

Dear military representatives

I beg you to accept responsibility and, at the very least, pay your fair share for the use of our lands. I live on Hawai'i island and have seen the extreme negative impacts to our ecosystem which your presence has brought. Soil erosion, introduction of non-native species, destruction of native plant species, destruction of habitat for native fauna and destruction and desecration of areas of archeological significance have been a few of the consequences of military maneuvers at Pohakuloa Training Area and elsewhere on the island.

Hawai'i has long been held in thrall of the military, but at what cost? It is past time for you to act as a partner and not the aggressor. We stand for this no more. Hear our voices. Heed our words.

Aloha ~ Maud L.

**From:** [Maud Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Leases  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:02:06 AM

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Dear military representatives

I beg you to accept responsibility and, at the very least, pay your fair share for the use of our lands.

I live on Hawai'i island and have seen the extreme negative impacts to our ecosystem which your presence has brought. Soil erosion, introduction of non-native species, destruction of native plant species, destruction of habitat for native fauna and destruction and desecration of areas of archeological significance have been a few of the consequences of military maneuvers at Pohakuloa Training Area and elsewhere on the island.

Hawai'i has long been held in thrall of the military, but at what cost? It is past time for you to act as a partner and not the aggressor. We stand for this no more. Hear our voices. Heed our words.

Aloha ~ Maud L.



## Ara Laylo

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Ara Laylo  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Ara Laylo  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 21:08:16 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Ara Laylo

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We

need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people

should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become

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Gabi Le

GIVE BACK THE LAND

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Oriana Leao

Aloha e Department of the Army,  
Please find attached Oahu ATLR EIS Comments written and submitted in my individual/personal capacity. Please contact me if you have any questions or any difficulty retrieving the attached PDF. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,  
Oriana Leao, [REDACTED]

**From:** [Oriana Leao](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 15:18:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [LEAO, Oriana - Oahu ATLR EIS Comments \(8-31-2021\).pdf](#)

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Oriana Leao  
[REDACTED]

August 31, 2021

Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI  
96801-3444

Subject: **Oahu ATLR EIS Comments**

Aloha e Department of the Army (DOD),

The following Comments shall be recorded in regards to the Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Proposal to re-lease lands on the island of O'ahu-a-Lua including the Poamoho Training Area, the Kahuku Training Area, and the Makua Military Reservation for 65 years, with the state of Hawai'i charging one dollar (\$1.00) for each parcel.

- The current proposed action does not involve "resource management activities." Pursuant to HEPA requirements noted in HRS 343-2 and HRS 343-5(a), the final EIS should note how the Army will negotiate with the state to determine a fair market value for the approximate 6,300 acres currently leased to the Army and how the Army will require the state to use said funds for non-profit environmental resource management organizations and programs that serve Native Hawaiians.
- Exercise "Minimum Retention and Access" and retain the minimum amount of state-owned lands within each training area that is required for USARHAW to continue to meet its current ongoing training requirements. In the final EIS, provide comparative data regarding alternative training sites on the U.S. continent at Army bases such as Fort Lewis, Washington.
- In 2009, the Army identified over 100 different cultural sites on the 4,200-acre property of Makua Valley including temples, altars, burial sites, and petroglyphs. The Army also determined that the valley was home to about 50 occurring or potentially occurring endangered plant and animal species.

Beyond the use of permits and lease authorization from state agencies, the final EIS should describe the means and process by which the military intends to ensure that all opportunities to prevent and mitigate damage to previously identified and newly identified cultural sites will be explored, executed, and evaluated at the noted training areas (HEPA – HRS 343-2).

- The final EIS should describe the standard operating procedure the Army intends to utilize to address or mitigate any past, current, and projected environmental impacts of explosive and un-explosive ordinances at the noted training areas.

- The final EIS should describe how the military will comply with all FAA requirements for all aircraft training as well as the use of all manned and un-manned aerial systems within proximity of residential areas and birdlife.
- The current proposed action does not involve new construction activities. The final EIS should define the term "construction activities" and describe how the proposed action of "no new construction activities" will be enforced regarding any proposals for Missile Defense Radar Systems or Sensors, fox holes and townscapes for maneuver training activities, and all other construction activities at the noted training areas.
- Pursuant to Article 12, Section 7 of the Hawaii State Constitution, the final EIS should describe how access to cultural sites will be secured and available for cultural activities which include but are not limited to ceremonial activities in recognition of Makahiki Season.
- Pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.9 (c) and HAR 11-200-26, the final EIS should note the potential of a supplemental EIS as needed.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

me ka ha'aha'a (with humility),

  
Oriana Leao

## Tom Lechanko

Thank you for today. I just wanted to give one rendition. (Speaking Hawaiian.) A critical note since time immemorial, time eternal ... We embrace those we choose to follow ... Places of exact and concise supernatural energy.

Hawaiian traditional culture property remains for all times, despite the unauthorized removal of its (indiscernible), physical features and structures. We require to be within their realm to acknowledge and verify the unseen and seen perpetual existence.

Mahalo, Colonel Misigoy, Trisha, and all that participated tonight. God bless you all. Mahalo nui. Malama.

## Caitlin Lee

The US Army shouldn't be allowed to renew its "lease" with Hawaii. For the past 65 years, they have been an unwelcome presence for the native populations on the islands. They have negatively impacted the environment through land destruction for military facilities, desecration of sacred lands, countless military tests, and other such things. All throughout that they have only given Hawaii \$1 for this access. I mean, honestly, how can that even be considered a lease? That's essentially colonialism and robbery. It is time to give the land back to people and let them heal what has been broken.

## Maelani Lee

To the ARMY and Affiliates,  
I, Queen of Hawaii, oppose any and all Army training and operations in Hawaii (all islands).  
Refrain from doing so, do not perform any EIS on any land in Hawaii. I do not approve and do not  
authorize any exercise, training, live training or storing of any weapons here in Hawaii. It is now,  
that this notice is officially warranted, by all military on Oahu and the whole archipelago of Hawaii.  
Regards, Queen Maelani Lee

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**From:** Bugala, Amy L CIV USARMY (USA)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 10:08  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Mathers, Gregory S CIV USARMY 25 ID (USA); Pate, Daisy Berbert CIV USARMY CEPOH (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Army Trainjng Land Retention Oahu EIS (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: Maelani Lee [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 9:30 PM  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Army Trainjng Land Retention Oahu EIS

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perform any EIS on any land in Hawaii. I do not approve and do not authorize any exercise, training, live training or  
storing of any weapons here in Hawaii. It is now, that this notice is officially warranted, by all military on Oahu and the  
whole archipelago of Hawaii.

Regards,  
Queen Maelani Lee

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Ona G. Lee

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing you in regards to the leases at Kahuku, Pohakuloa, Poamoho and Makua in the State of Hawaii. These military leases must end in 2029. Militarism means toxic contamination for generations, desecrating the land, and disrespecting the indigenous culture. Militarism only perpetuates poverty and misery. I do not subscribe to the U.S. military version of security and protection, which is really an agenda of endless war and corporate extraction. The fight for genuine freedom and democracy must mean that land, water, and traditional foodways are accessible, especially to indigenous people who have stewarded these lands for centuries. If we listen to indigenous land protectors, we can build a brilliant future, but that means putting common sense at the forefront. We want the military out of these islands so we can build a green economy based on genuine security, survival and peace. Sincerely, Ona G. Lee

**From:** [Ona Lee](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] End Military Leases  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:09:48 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

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Militarism means toxic contamination for generations, desecrating the land, and disrespecting the indigenous culture. Militarism only perpetuates poverty and misery. I do not subscribe to the U.S. military version of security and protection, which is really an agenda of endless war and corporate extraction.

The fight for genuine freedom and democracy must mean that land, water, and traditional foodways are accessible, especially to indigenous people who have stewarded these lands for centuries. If we listen to indigenous land protectors, we can build a brilliant future, but that means putting common sense at the forefront.

We want the military out of these islands so we can build a green economy based on genuine security, survival and peace.

Sincerely,  
Ona G. Lee

## Melissa Lefkowitz

My indigenous colleague and his community need and want their ancestral land back.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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**From:** Melissa Lefkowitz <notifications@cognitofrms.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 15:26  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Melissa Lefkowitz

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Melissa Lefkowitz
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	<a href="mailto:melissa.f.lefkowitz@gmail.com">melissa.f.lefkowitz@gmail.com</a>
I RESIDE IN:	New York, New York 10034
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	My indigenous colleague and his community need and want their ancestral land back.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands

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These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-

ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical

descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

## Roberts Leinau

August 3, 2021 To whom it may concern, My comments below are in reference to the Army's plans to retain leased state-owned land on Oahu for military training. Drum Road, which connects Schofield Barracks to Kahuku Training Area, is as important now as it was when it was built. Prior to its construction in the 1930's, there was only Kamehameha Hwy and the old train track which ran parallel. Coastal Defenses felt there was a need for an alternate route to get around the island in the advent of Kamehameha Hwy becoming impassable. Today, Kamehameha Hwy is the only way to get from Schofield to the Kahuku Training Area unless you fly in via helicopter... or are prepared to take many risks associated with driving on Drum Road. It is a one-way road with no guard railings adjacent to steep drop-offs. Both the surface and the sub-base course, which is missing in many steep areas, are VERY dangerously slippery when it has been raining and clay is involved. Yet, the road is often referred to at public meetings as a possible alternate emergency escape route even though it is not safe to be used in its current condition. The last time it was significantly improved was 13 years ago, around 2008 for the Stryker Brigade. Drum Road passes through several properties with a perpetual easement and has been under Schofield's Range Control for many years. Other parties who have access keys are: fire departments (both military and city) to fight fires and respond to rescue incidents, DLNR/DOFAW, DLNR/DOCARE, USGS, hunters, biologists and property owners accessing their mauka land. Thus, I propose the Army include the fixing of Drum Road in its plan to retain Kahuku Training Area, making this a priority. Drum Road could once again be used as a functional one-way road for military transport. Equally if not more important, making Drum Road safe and passable will benefit civilian operations which currently use the road AND serve as a viable emergency route should it be needed in the future. The Army could stress this as a positive impact to the local community. Sincerely, Roberts Leinau [REDACTED]

**From:** [leinaur001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:leinaur001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE O'ahu training land retention  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 12:16:40 PM

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August 3, 2021

To whom it may concern,

My comments below are in reference to the Army's plans to retain leased state-owned land on Oahu for military training.

Drum Road, which connects Schofield Barracks to Kahuku Training Area, is as important now as it was when it was built. Prior to its construction in the 1930's, there was only Kamehameha Hwy and the old train track which ran parallel. **Coastal Defenses** felt there was a need for an alternate route to get around the island in the advent of Kamehameha Hwy becoming impassable.

Today, Kamehameha Hwy is the only way to get from Schofield to the Kahuku Training Area unless you fly in via helicopter... or are prepared to take many risks associated with driving on Drum Road. It is a one-way road with no guard railings adjacent to steep drop-offs. Both the surface and the sub-base course, which is missing in many steep areas, are VERY dangerously slippery when it has been raining and clay is involved. Yet, the road is often referred to at public meetings as a possible alternate emergency escape route even though it is not safe to be used in its current condition. The last time it was significantly improved was 13 years ago, around 2008 for the Stryker Brigade.

Drum Road passes through several properties with a perpetual easement and has been under Schofield's Range Control for many years. Other parties who have access keys are: fire departments (both military and city) to fight fires and respond to rescue incidents, DLNR/DOFAW, DLNR/DOCARE, USGS, hunters, biologists and property owners accessing their mauka land.

Thus, I propose the Army include the fixing of Drum Road in its plan to retain Kahuku Training Area, making this a priority. Drum Road could once again be used as a functional one-way road for military transport.

Equally if not more important, making Drum Road safe and passable will benefit civilian operations which currently use the road AND serve as a viable emergency route should it be needed in the future. The Army could stress this as a positive impact to the local community.

Sincerely, Roberts Leinau     [leinaur001@hawaii.rr.com]

## Roberts Leinau

There was mention that this round of lease considerations would include community concerns. Prior to the construction of Drum Road [in the 1930's] which connects Schofield Barracks to Kahuku [KTA] there was only the coastal Kamehameha Hwy. and the parallel train track. The Coastal Defenses felt that there was a need for some redundancy to get around the Island in the advent of Kamehameha Hwy becoming impassable.

Today there is still only Kamehameha Hwy to get from Schofield to the Kahuku training area [unless you are in one of the many helicopters that frequent this area] ... unless, you are prepared to take many risks associated with traveling on Drum Road.

The last time Drum Road got some meaningful improvements it was when the Stryker Brigade was selected to be stationed at Schofield in around 2008.

Drum Road passes through several properties with a perpetual easement and has been under the control of Schofield's Range Patrol for many years, which coordinates with military training maneuvers. Other parties who have appropriate access keys are: the fire departments [both military and City] .... both to fight fires and to respond to rescue incidents, DLNR/DOFAW, DLNR/DOCARE, USGS, hunters, biologists, property owners accessing their mauka land, etc. The road is often referred to at public meetings as a possible alternate emergency escape route although it is not often safe enough to be used in that capacity at this time. Drum Road is a one-way road with no guard railings adjacent to steep drop-offs. Both the surface and the sub-base course which is missing in many steep areas and is VERY dangerously slippery when it has been raining and clay is involved.

Drum Road is as important now as it was when it was constructed. It has been an important functional one-way road before and should be fixed again, especially if the military intends to utilize it in the future as a connector of one military property to another. Plus, it will be a major safety benefit to many who currently use the road &/or may need to use it in the future and have safety concerns.

## Lisa Lemke

Give Hawaiians their land back. Time for the military to move elsewhere. Do not renew their lease.



## Nicole Leonard

I OPPOSE military occupation in Hawaii. The permits for the military should NOT be renewed and the lands should be given back to the Indigenous Hawaiians for their homesteads. Do the right thing, Mother Gaia is watching.

## Russell Leong

"The Army proposes to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of State-owned lands at three installations on the island of O'ahu. Military training has taken place under a lease on State-owned lands at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR since 1964." "1) Full Retention, 2) Modified Retention, and 3) Minimum Retention and Access. The No Action Alternative (no retention of State-owned lands after 2029) will also be analyzed." I support the Army training in the three (3) locations identified; however, the public is not aware of the environmental mitigation that occurs in the training areas. Granted that there will always be criticisms of training activities there should be more public outreach to convey what you have already accomplished and continue to do so. That is protecting watersheds by completely installing fencing and performing ungulate control. Maintaining your training roads to reduce erosion from stormwater. I would suggest improvements to MMR and Schofield Firing Ranges(not included in EIS, but worth mentioning) by constructing large downstream sediment basins which would capture sediment before it travels further downstream. Lastly, measurement and documentation of funds spent for environmental mitigation, areas improved, and observable improvements to environmental restoration and water quality. This documentation should be posted on a public website as part of the Army's measurable and historical metrics. Russell Leong Pearl City, Oahu, Hawaii

**From:** [Russell Leong](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu ATLR EIS Comments due 9/1/2021  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:28:03 AM

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"The Army proposes to retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of State-owned lands at three installations on the island of O'ahu. Military training has taken place under a lease on State-owned lands at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR since 1964."

"1) Full Retention, 2) Modified Retention, and 3) Minimum Retention and Access. The No Action Alternative (no retention of State-owned lands after 2029) will also be analyzed."


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Lastly, measurement and documentation of funds spent for environmental mitigation, areas improved, and observable improvements to environmental restoration and water quality. This documentation should be posted on a public website as part of the Army's measurable and historical metrics.

Russell Leong  
Pearl City, Oahu, Hawaii

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< #DAB4FAD8-2DD7-40BB-A1B8-4E2AA1F9FDF2 >

ana Denisse lepes Sanchez

United States release the land back to the indigenous people of Hawaii.

## Ash Leslie

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to oppose military occupation of Hawaii. Hawaii was forced into statehood against the will of the people, and the military is illegally occupying this land. Hawaii should be it's own nation, and does not want or need interference or destruction of land caused by the U.S., a foreign, military. Remove the army and military from Hawaii.

Thank you

## Maelia Leslie

Aloha. My name is Maelia Leslie and I'm a resident of Mililani. I'm calling because I want to say that I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. Destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands in the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you.

## Kadence Letua

The land doesn't belong to anyone but the kanaka. Stop exploiting the islands and go do it somewhere else.

## Claudia Leung

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Claudia Leung  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Claudia Leung  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 17:31:07 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Claudia Leung

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Oakland, California 94606

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and

conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The

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Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Nikos Leverenz

I am writing to oppose the extension of leases of these properties.

The U.S. Army fails to pay adequate compensation for the use of the property. A \$1 lease that extends for decades strains the ordinary definition of leasehold interests. Given the hundreds of billions in taxpayer funds expended upon Department of Defense operations in any given year, and the scarcity of land in this archipelago, more favorable lease terms would be in the tens of millions annually or more.

Further, ongoing training activities have grave environmental impacts that will likely not be adequately assessed until military operations cease and necessary remediation is undertaken by the U.S. government.

Among the properties under consideration Makua Valley deserves maximal protection given its deep and enduring cultural significance for Native Hawaiians. The continued use of the valley is an affront to them and all Hawaii residents who value our state's natural and cultural resources.

The continental United States provides a wide range of natural landscapes that can be used for Army training operations. Hawaii has limited acreage with a long list of endangered and threatened species. This land is also notably home to an indigenous population that is beset by a range of challenges that evince their ongoing dispossession: poor educational outcomes, underemployment, housing instability, higher incidence of chronic medical conditions like diabetes and heart disease, shorter life expectancies, overrepresentation in the criminal legal system, and underrepresentation in civic life.

Continuing these operations beyond the current lease terms is not warranted by any metric beyond the unconscionably gratuitous terms set forth in current leases -- agreements that should not have been executed in the first instance.

## Selah Levine

I am strongly against this land retention by the military for training purposes. The threats cause by the military to the native environment of hawaii are too great. Protecting the native ecosystem and cultural sites in hawaii is more important than military training.



Danny H.C. Li

Citizens all across Hawai'i have spoken out loudly and repeatedly over many years at numerous public hearings: No Lease Renewals for the Army! The US Army has been a lousy steward on the lands they currently use for training, and it needs to use the remaining time on current lease to clean up all the toxic wastes they are leaving behind. Clean up and move out! More critically, the US military has been draining valuable funding & resources away from their better use in civilian infrastructures and employment. Stop wasting taxpayers' hard-earned money on misdirected training(in order to prepare for future overseas "expeditionary" misadventures!) Once again, let me repeat: No Lease Renewals for war preparation! Clean up and Move Out! Peace and Aloha,Danny H.C. Li (Kea'au, Hawai'i)

**From:** [dlimay7@aol.com](mailto:dlimay7@aol.com)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [ja@malu-aina.org](mailto:ja@malu-aina.org); [dlimay7@gmail.com](mailto:dlimay7@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lease renewals  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:50:24 AM

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Citizens all across Hawai'i have spoken out loudly and repeatedly over many years at numerous public hearings: No Lease Renewals for the Army!

The US Army has been a lousy steward on the lands they currently use for training, and it needs to use the remaining time on current lease to clean up all the toxic wastes they are leaving behind. Clean up and move out!

More critically, the US military has been draining valuable funding & resources away from their better use in civilian infrastructures and employment. Stop wasting taxpayers' hard-earned money on misdirected training(in order to prepare for future overseas "expeditionary" misadventures!)

Once again, let me repeat: No Lease Renewals for war preparation! Clean up and Move Out!

Peace and Aloha,  
Danny H.C. Li (Kea'au, Hawai'i)

## William Liggett

I strongly favor granting the US Army a long-term lease for training. I also urge strong state enforcement of environmental care for land that it leases.

William R. Liggett Col USAF ret

## Victor Limon

Yes. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak. This is Victor Gregor Nimon, a Filipino graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I was born and raised in the Philippines, where the U.S. military has a long, but consistent track record. That record is a history of violence, death, destruction, and the rape of our women. If the U.S. military is allowed to continue occupying and desecrating Hawaiian lands, I cannot imagine how the future of my Native Hawaiian brothers and sisters would be different from what my people have suffered so far.

I applaud everyone tonight who had the courage to stand up for their sovereign rights and for what is right.

In 1992, the U.S. military was forced to withdraw from its bases in the Philippines. That was a result of a united and vigorous opposition of Filipinos and our allies around the world. I have no doubt that it is only a matter of time before that feat is repeated here in Hawai'i.

That will be a time for reckoning, and it will bring hope to other people whose lands are also illegally occupied. Mahalo.

## Renie Lindley

I firmly oppose the renewal of 23,000 acres of Hawai'i public trust land at Pōhakuloa Training Area to the U.S. Army, because for 65 years the Army did not fulfill the terms of the lease. The Army has damaged native ecosystems, left unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, and other contaminants, and harmed Native Hawaiian cultural sites. But we have the ability to hold the military accountable, and show leadership in an uncomfortable situation. As part of the condition for leasing the public lands at Pōhakuloa to the US Army, the military is supposed to maintain the environment there through regular clean-ups of unexploded munitions and other harmful by-products of live-fire testing (including depleted uranium from some of the ammunition used there, and other chemicals).

The depleted uranium being present on the land was so concerning that the Hawaii County Council overwhelmingly approved a resolution in 2008 that requested a halt to live-fire training in order to take further action on the presence of depleted uranium in PTA. The state agency with the fiduciary responsibility for enforcing this condition, and for protecting and conserving public land generally, is the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

## Natalie Lindsay

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the renewal of the military's lease on Hawaiian lands in 2029. The United States has been illegally occupying Hawaiian land for many years, and it's time to return that land to the people who have lived there for centuries. Native Hawaiians have been forced to watch their islands be destroyed for tourism and military activities, as rent skyrockets and they are driven out of land they've always occupied. Please do not renew the lease on Hawaiian land, and return the land back to the indigenous people of Hawaii.

Thank you, Natalie Lindsay

**From:** Natalie Lindsay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:45  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaiian Land Lease Renewal

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the renewal of the military's lease on Hawaiian lands in 2029. The United States has been illegally occupying Hawaiian land for many years, and it's time to return that land to the people who have lived there for centuries. Native Hawaiians have been forced to watch their islands be destroyed for tourism and military activities, as rent skyrockets and they are driven out of land they've always occupied. Please do not renew the lease on Hawaiian land, and return the land back to the indigenous people of Hawaii.

Thank you,  
Natalie Lindsay

Meredith Linhart

I OPPOSE THE RETENTION OF HAWAIIAN LANDS BY THE US MILITARY

## Meredith Linhart

I oppose the retention/renewal of leases by the US military of native/Hawaiian lands. Instead I believe they should be designated to misplaced Hawaiian residents and natives (not including people who moved there from the mainland).

**From:** Meredith Linhart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:23  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I oppose the retention of Hawaiian lands

I oppose the retention/renewal of leases by the US military of native/Hawaiian lands. Instead I believe they should be designated to misplaced Hawaiian residents and natives (not including people who moved there from the mainland).

Rimona Livie

I am emailing today to say that I oppose the military occupation of Hawaii and want the land to be returned to the indigenous community there. Thank you for your time!

- Rimona Livie

**From:** Rimona Livie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:16  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I oppose the military occupation of Hawaii

I am emailing today to say that I oppose the military occupation of Hawaii and want the land to be returned to the indigenous community there. Thank you for your time!

- Rimona Livie

## Ashley Livingston

Hello, Please do not renew military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. Doing so would allow for continued destruction of natural resources and sacred land. When the leases expire in 2029 they should be returned to the Indigenous communities. Thank you

**From:** Ashley Livingston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:21  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land back

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Hello,  
Please do not renew military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. Doing so would allow for continued destruction of natural resources and sacred land. When the leases expire in 2029 they should be returned to the Indigenous communities.  
Thank you

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone < Caution-<https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/?src=iOS> >

## Nanea Lo

Hello, my name is Nanea Lo, and I'm a resident of Moiliili, Oahu. I'm calling because I'm strongly opposed to extension of the military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals. And continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands in the State for \$1 since 1964 when the lease is expiring in 2029 and this land should be immediately restored to the public again.

## Nicole Londoño

This Hawaiian land, this just morally wrong, stop dehumanizing the Hawaiian people on their sacred land



## Joy Loo

I am against any further training in Hawai'i. We are islands, with finite resources- training, bombing, your ruining the environment & pay \$1.00. Go somewhere else. Bomb somewhere else. Poison somewhere else. Abuse & take advantage of some place else.

## Raudel Lopez

To whom it may concern: I am against the Department of Defense continuing to lease these lands at \$1 USD a year and further suggest that the Department return these leased lands to the native peoples of Hawaii. The US occupation of Hawaii and it's lands should be rectified as quickly as possible.

## La‘akea Low

La'akea Low ko inoa. No kou mokopuni o Maui. Just couple suggestions. First off, like everyone said, open the chat. Put a list of the testifiers in order so that we know when we testify. We have things to do. And also, maybe put the wahine with the clock back on the screen so that we're not interrupted when we're testifying, so we know how much time we get.

So with those suggestions in mind, I'd just like to oppose any renewals of any permits by the U.S. military. As people said, U.S. military has no jurisdiction in Hawai'i. When you folks provide the treaty of annexation, we might be able to talk about it. But without that treaty, there's really no place for the U.S. in Hawai'i.

And then as the previous testifier said in terms of the no action option, for the U.S. to threaten to Hawai'i with, well, you know, if you don't renew our permits, we not going do this, we not going do that, we not going protect, we notgoing do work related to the environment, you know, that's really, really childish of the U.S.

I mean, you guys been getting a deal, dollar for 65 years, and unless we adhere to your folks' request, you folks can just, you know, ship out. And if that's what it is, then as long as you guys ship out, then that's good, too. Take all of the military personnel with you guys. They just, you know, disrespecting our 'aina, raising the cost of living in Hawai'i, you know.

And all of the military, they claim to fight for freedom and this and that, but they fail to recognize the freedom of Hawai'i. And a lot of that is a sham. We know a lot of the service members are serving because of the benefits, because of the pay, and to say they're fighting for our freedom is a sham. They fighting for free college and survive, for their housing benefits and education benefits and the paycheck.

And so the sooner the U.S. leaves, the better. The better for everyone involved. And we seen what's happened on Mauna Kea and elsewhere throughout the islands, Maui, Haleakala, where kanaka are mobilizing.

That's what I mean. You guys got to do something about that. Try find a way for not interrupt the testifiers. I mean, you guys already took up choke time with that presentation that we could find online without having to go through all that and waiting all night to testify.

And so I'll just say the sooner the U.S. leaves Hawai'i, the better. We all know Hawai'i is illegally occupied. The so-called state of Hawai'i, the fake state, has no jurisdiction. Neither does the U.S. military, the United States of America. And so just leave as soon as possible, and the sooner, the better.

## Aracely Lozano

Hello,

I am writing in solidarity of the land. Hawaii has and always will be a sovereign territory as the active volcano is always truly making decisions for the land. I am urging these projects to stop the abuse and exploitation of the islands. Enough with the pain that has been caused on the land and the people. I strongly advise to humble yourselves and allow yourselves to be guided by the lands people. Hawaii is stolen territory just like the majority of what is called USA. It belongs to no one but those that care and tend to her. At these rates of your expansion there will no longer be a plant to live on, I am disgusted by the atrocities the US military and government continue to perpetuate. Stop now!

Jessica LT

123 years ago, the US illegally stole Hawai'i and invaded the islands with armed military based at the front of 'Iolani Palace. Today, there are still military leases on wahi pana. I demand that these lands be returned and restored to natives. Discontinue military training in Hawai'i.

**From:** [Jessica LT](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Deoccupy and Demilitarize Hawai'i  
**Date:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:39:20 AM

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123 years ago, the US illegally stole Hawai'i and invaded the islands with armed military based at the front of 'Iolani Palace. Today, there are still military leases on wahi pana. I demand that these lands be returned and restored to natives. Discontinue military training in Hawai'i.

## Julie M

"Aloha. My name is Julie M and I'm a resident of Honolulu. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, to continually disrupt the live to the local community. The United States Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When these leases expire in 2020, this land should be immediately restored to the public and the people. Thank you"

## Eleanor M Eisler

Aloha.  
since the establishment of military occupation of native lands in 1964, the united states army has paid a total of 57 dollars. That's a measly one dollar per year. When comparing a map of military occupied Oahu and land reserved native homestead, the disparity is horrifying. Military occupation of these lands negativity impacts local flora and fauna in large quantities, not to mention the population of native people that were killed just for you to have the land in the first place. Please return the land to it's rightful stewards in hopes that one day it's natural beauty and significance may be restored.

## Kauwila M.

(Speaking Hawaiian.) I oppose this bill attempting to extend the military leases of public lands at Makua, Kahuku, Poamoho. We are tired of appealing to the morality of a state and military who continues to subjugate and degrade our land and our people. American military's purported yearning for national security is a fallacy. How can you have national security when you stole land, forcibly evicted our people, and created a never-ending cycle of homelessness in our home lands? The underlying question, then, is are we American or not? Are we part of this purported national security plan? Are you willing to admit that Americans are the terrorists in Hawai'i, Guam, Okinawa, and the many indigenous nations in the island? We are not American. We will die as Hawaiians and live on forever as *kanaka oiwi*. They have more broken promises than broken treaties. The EIS are broken (indiscernible) to continue to latch on to. We say *lawā*. Enough already. Here are some concepts I know you missed. Every single speck of dust and dirt is an amalgam of seven particular Hawaiian gods -- Kane, Ku, Kanaloa, Lono, Haumea, Papa, Wāliu'u. Prior to ending your scope, you must document every single rain and wind name on -- we haven't even begun to do our research. We have documented the Land Commission wars to people from the Hawaiian Kingdom. The whole Waialua water table has changed, and it is well documented and kept, so you have to research that, too. I've seen at least 47 chats online in Hawaiian language newspapers for Makua alone. There are countless others. (Speaking Hawaiian.) People around the world are occupied by American forces and are eating stones while the American military's insatiable hunger for bodies sustains imperialism and exceptionalism by which they continue to rape and kill people and land. Just because it isn't a spectacle doesn't mean my people aren't dying. We still remember the American general who shot the sole bullet in the Iolani Palace and killed a guardsman on January 16th, the day before the overthrow in 1893. We still remember the way that the American Navy shot at 13-year-old kids in the 1895 Wilcox rebellion. We still remember the forced evictions in Makua and Waimanalo by the U.S. Army. We also remember the way that we got to reestablish our ancestor relationship with Kaho'olawe when we defeated the Navy in court. We also remember the way the winds and rains carry our chants into the ringing ears of our people where the bursts of bombs. We also remember that this land, our ancestor has a *maluhia* and protects us, and we protect her. O ke aloha 'aina ka mea ku aia oe. Aloha 'aina will be the demise of the American empire. Land back. Ho'iho'i ke ku'oko'a. Mahalo.

## Navroop Maan

I am asking you to discontinue military training in Hawai'i and give the land back to its people.  
Sincerely, Navroop Maan

**From:** [Roop Maan](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Discontinue Military Training  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 20:25:37 PM

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I am asking you to discontinue military training in Hawai'i and give the land back to its people.

Sincerely, Navroop Maan

## Roop Maan

We must end the military occupation in Hawaii. Do not extend the lease and give Hawaii back to its people. Enough is enough. Find somewhere on the mainland to train.

## Samantha Maas

To whom this concerns,

My name is Samantha Maas and I am a resident of Arizona. I strongly oppose the extension of the lease that allows the US military to occupy and practice military strikes on Hawaiian land in Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. This land belongs to native Hawaiians and should be returned to them. An extension will further destroy the land and its resources and further the housing crisis for native Hawaiians. When the lease ends, the land should be given back to the public.

Sincerely, Samantha Maas

**From:** [Samantha Maas](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] End US military lease in Hawaii  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:59:05 AM

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To whom this concerns,

My name is Samantha Maas and I am a resident of Arizona. I strongly oppose the extension of the lease that allows the US military to occupy and practice military strikes on Hawaiian land in Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. This land belongs to native Hawaiians and should be returned to them. An extension will further destroy the land and its resources and further the housing crisis for native Hawaiians. When the lease ends, the land should be given back to the public.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Maas

Sage Mackenzie

Aloha, My name is Sage and I am a resident of Portland, OR. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases in the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public, particularly the indigenous peoples of Hawaii who are the rightful stewards of the land.

Thank you,  
Sage

**From:** [Mackenzie, Sage](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu ALTR EIS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:18:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Aloha,

My name is Sage and I am a resident of Portland, OR. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases in the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public, particularly the indigenous peoples of Hawaii who are the rightful stewards of the land.

Thank you,

Sage

Sage Mackenzie | Workers Compensation Claim Representative

Sedgwick



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## Uahikea Maile

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities

of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Uahikeya Maile [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 13:22  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Uahikeya Maile

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Uahikeya Maile
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kailua, Hawaii 96734
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu A Kanaka Maoli
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY’S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O‘AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have

also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and

properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of

Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaioloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine

resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the

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Cognito Forms

## Elise Maize

"Hello, my name is Elise Maize and I'm a resident of Hilo, Hawaii and strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa, and Pohakuloa on the Big Island. When these leases expire in 2029 this land to be immediately restored to the public. And The EIS should focus on the natural resources of the area, the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and as possible, the disruption to the lives of the local community. Thank you. "

Miranda Makaruk

123 Years Ago Today, the US illegally stole the Hawaiians’ Kingdom, lowered their hae Hawai’i, & invaded their islands with armed military based at the front of ‘Iolani Palace.123 Years Ago Today, We are still opposing these illegal occupiers & protesting military leases on their sacred wahi pana. We are demanding these lands to be returned & restored back to the Hawaiian People. We are asking to discontinue the abuse of their home for colonizer military trainings. Thank You for your time,To whom who may listen

**From:** [Miranda Makaruk](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land Leases  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 20:44:48 PM

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Thank You for your time,  
To whom who may listen

## Jeremiah Mangini

The Military should not be using this land for training facilities. Therefore the Lease shouldn't be extended. Instead of trying to keep the lease invest money in Native Hawaiians. If you so insist on making the lease longer (which you shouldn't) at least pay Hawaiians much money for it.

## Joelene Manuel

Aloha please understand this land doe'snt belong to me or you. It belongs to the natural course of life and inheritance. The hawaiiens lived on this island long before you came. \$1 is not a fair price because it was never on sale. Listen to your heart.

## Marian Marcigan

I think the land the military uses for training is a very useful way to use this land. We also see a great benefit to our local community through military spending on our island.

## Malia Marquez

Aloha kākou, my name is Malia Lum Kawaihoa Marquez and I am a lifelong resident of Maunaloa (Hawai'i Kai). First, I would like to acknowledge you and the "jobs" you are asked to do here in Hawai'i nei. The military has been here since the illegal overthrow of our kingdom. Our 'āina has been misused and damaged by the military for a very long time. It seemed like a miracle when our Hawaiian heros were able to stop the bombing on our "piko", our precious Kaho'olawe. Hawaiians going up against the U.S. military seems undoable. But we were able to STOP that bombing so nothing is impossible. Our voices matter, our lands matter, and its time to right the wrong that was done to our islands. America has much open space to practice its warring tactics. Hawai'i should NOT be a place to do such unfathomable acts of desecration. Land is 'āina, our ancestors are 'āina, WE (Hawaiians) are 'āina. I strongly oppose any sort of land extension for military use on our precious lands. The military needs to set forth a plan to clean up our 'āina before 2029 and give our LAND BACK. Me ka ha'aha'a (with humbleness), Malia Marquez.



## Malia Marquez

Aloha. My name is Malia Kawaihoa Marquez and I am a resident of Moanalua, also known as Hawaii Kai. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on our aina of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy our natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of our local communities. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to our public. Mahalo for your time. Aloha. A hui hou.

## Gladis Marquez

Stop US Military Lease Extensions On Hawaiian People's Lands!

## Dylan Marquis

Hello, my name is Dylan Marquis. I'm a resident of Bishop California I'm strongly opposed of the extension of the military leasing on the land of the Makua, Kahuku, and Wahuwa [Wahiawa] tribes. I just, you know, just appalled at the idea that there are there's any military activity in a place like Hawaii, which is out so insulated by the ocean and such a beautiful place. If you can please call back at this number and let me hear your side of the story. But again, I'm just so strongly opposed to Military leasing in Hawaii. Thank you.

I-1087

## Mahealani Martin

Aloha to all US Army Personnel,  
A Declaration of War was signed this year by OFH ARMY Colonel Sam Lilikoi and US Navy Lt Colonel Beaumont dated Jan. 17, 2021. We are at war with the US which means Marshall law for Americans in Hawaii. We want you guys to cleanup your opala and leave. Your time here is done!! Your disregard for trashing the island is done!! You have been occupying the islands for far too long!! We are done with you!! Get out of Hawaii now!! War crimes have been documented!! Mahealani Martin  
Sent from my iPhone

I-1088

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**From:** Karen Martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:37  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Cleanup

Aloha to all US Army Personnel,

A Declaration of War was signed this year by OFH ARMY Colonel Sam Lilikoi and US Navy Lt Colonel Beaumont dated Jan. 17, 2021. We are at war with the US which means Marshall law for Americans in Hawaii.

We want you guys to cleanup your opala and leave. Your time here is done!! Your disregard for trashing the island is done!! You have been occupying the islands for far too long!! We are done with you!! Get out of Hawaii now!!

War crimes have been documented!!

Mahealani Martin

Sent from my iPhone

## Indira Martinez

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases in Makua, Wahiawa, and Kahuku. We are in a climate crisis, and need to take unprecedented steps in order to prevent massive loss of life. Extending the contract would mean extending the contract on environmental destruction and degradation. The continued environmental and economic impacts of the US military's exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico has been devastating to local communities and the environment. The sooner the military leaves, the sooner the cleanup and restoration can begin.

## Kaipo Matsumoto

Aloha pumehana kakou. ...Ea. A nui ku lahui. Aloha to the wonderful ASL translators, too. Mahalo nui. You guys are all killing it. Aloha, Kehau. Salutations, Colonel Misigoy. My name is Kaipo Matsumoto. I'm a master's candidate in history at the University of Hawai'i. I also hold a bachelor's degree in history and literature from Harvard University. I was raised in Honouliuli on the Ewa plain in the westernmost bay of Pu'u'loa, also known as the West Loch of Pearl Harbor. I grew up not far from a place referred to as Jigoku-Dani, or Hell Valley, in Japanese, the largest and longest used internment camp for American citizens of Japanese descent in our islands in World War II. I invoke this indefensible historical scar for one reason, that the U.S. military built an internment camp that should have never existed. Sixty-five-year leases for 6,300 acres for one dollar should have never existed, and they should not be renewed, not in 2029, and not ever. Just to clear things up to the military, Colonel Misigoy, land in Hawai'i is assets to Hawaiians' 'aina and family, and as we all know to both of us, 'aina is power. And that is the basis from which we reject the very premise of this scoping process, as mentioned before by so many of those who spoke. The scoping process belies the very terms of the military's lessee position. But in the spirit of lip service, let's talk story. Those that prepare for war are those that expect and look for it. And those that look for war will always find it at home. So when we drive our kids to school and they ask us why there are Humvees on our freeways and they ask us who we are fighting, the only answer we have to offer is that they are fighting those they purport to protect. We deem aloha Hawai'i, where we do not fight to be ourselves. So we call for environmental impact statements that don't just allow the [HEPA], it needs to follow the [HEPA] and [HEPA] laws. We call for statements that take into account the very community live fire training ostensibly protecting [HEPA]. We call for environment impact statements that make legible the impact of military expenditure and exercises on not only our material lives, but our affected lives, which is the life of our 'aina.... I got you. Yeah, I'm going to wrap up. Okay. Before I go, I just wanted to echo what Sister Emma Koa said yesterday. E, you guys better buckle up, bro, from Guam to the Philippines to Okinawa and beyond, Oceania, bro, we hear and we're rising. And we're rising faster than you guys can contribute to sea level rise. (Speaking Hawaiian). For those that choose, our purpose will always be alone for this 'aina. Mahalo nui to all that shared. E aloha Hawai'i a mau loa. Mahalo.

## Lahela Mattos

"Aloha mai my name is Lahela Mattos and I'm initially from Arizona, but I'm a resident of Pearl City right now and I am kanaka maoli. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of this area, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. I've seen it firsthand of the natural habitats and native plants that I tried to look for not being accessible to me anymore. So the army has already wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964 and when the leases expire in 2029 the land should be immediately restored back to the public and back to kanaka maoli. Once again, my name is Lahela Mattos and I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. Thank you. "

## Rebecca Mattos

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Hawai'i exists as a place of Aloha, to be a shining light to the world and show that we can learn from our ancestors about proper land and resource management, not only for present day society, for generations to come. We have come to a point that the destruction on these lands by the military is no longer serving a purpose except to prolong war and violence. Look at the recent situation in Afghanistan- 20 years and 4 trillion dollars spent, and thousands of lives lost in vain- women, children Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons

testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anāe, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anāe Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anāe, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. I have military members in my extended family and many friends who have served in the military- some very high ranking. I have heard first hand from them of the devastation that war has caused them, and even had many military friends commit suicide or succumb to addiction, domestic violence, and PTSD. They talk about how useless and costly war

I-1095

EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

### Entry Details

1

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

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ammunitions. We must do this, it is the only way to ensure a future for us all and our children.

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## Maya Maxym

Hello. Hi. This is Maya Maxym and I am a resident, a non-Hawaiian, residents on Oahu, civilian. And I'm calling to oppose extension of the land leases for the military, given that we have one of the worst housing crises in the entire nation, and that a large number of Native Hawaiians don't have the opportunity to live in decent housing, much less own their own homes on their own land, so it's time to stop extending those leases and respect the people on this island we live. Mahalo

## Stanley May

I am in favor of renewing the lease to the Army for lands on Oahu used for training.

Bella Mayvaras

GET THE US MILITARY OUT OF HAWAII!!! YOU ARE DESTROYING THEIR LAND. Give their land back.

I-1103

Tori McAllister

Respectfully, the US Military should never have occupied Hawaii in the first place. The land needs to go back to the natives. Do not renew your lease, please.

I-1104

## Brenda McCallum

Too much land desecration and lack of environmental and cultural preservation for more than half a century. It's our duty to speak up in the name of the 'Aina's best interests. Find another land or better yet consolidate. At least allow some time for that land to heal from the amount of traffic, explosions, and pollutions that it has had to sustain for this long period of time. We are pleading with you to do what is right according to the place that you are inhabiting! Malama Aina, figure out a better solution for your needs. Mahalo!

## Sorcha McCarrey

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... As a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, I support full self-determination and reparations for the Kānaka Maoli.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

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National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

My name is Sorcha, I am a haole who grew up in Lā‘ie, on the North Shore of O‘ahu, where I attended Kahuku High School. It wasn’t until after highschool that I learned of Hawai‘i as center of the Pacific. And it wasn’t until after that that I learned not only is Hawai‘i the center of the Pacific, it is the center of U.S. imperialism in the Pacific. From here, the U.S. pursues its agenda of endless war and military aggression towards other colonized nations. The United States has been engaged in armed open conflict with other countries twenty-three of the twenty-five years I have been alive, and has militarily occupied Hawai‘i for over four times that. Hawai‘i’s lands and Hawai‘i’s people, the Kānaka Maoli, are treated as raw extractable commodities to fuel the U.S. war machine, which currently sends soldiers, weapons, and terror abroad to people in Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, and elsewhere, not to mention beats its war drums in anticipation of intervention in Cuba and war with China. All fuelled by the occupation of Hawai‘i and abuse of its people. And the U.S. military is no stranger to using and abusing fuel, as the world’s largest polluter, using 21 billion liters of fuel every year, more than the total carbon emissions of Denmark. Our armed forces create 750,000 tons of toxic waste every year. The military continues to pollute here as well, as we know--of what we know, that is, of depleted uranium being shot and scattered to the wind, mountains, ocean, and soil of this land, of this ‘āina. There is a profound entitlement with which the U.S. military presumes to occupy these lands, resting on not only the absence of recognition of any wrong being done to the self-determining people of Hawai‘i, but not even affording the barest pretense of reparation for the harm acknowledged in name only by the U.S. government when it “apologized” for its role in the illegal overthrow. 1 dollar will never be enough for sixty-five more years of continued abuse, occupation, and export of the same on a broad international scale. Self-determination and reparations for the Hawaiian people!

**From:** Sorcha McCarrey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 13:45  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Sorcha McCarrey

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Sorcha McCarrey
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO BECAUSE..."	As a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, I support full self-determination and reparations for the Kānaka Maoli.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the

general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader

community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*,

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

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war machine, which currently sends soldiers, weapons, and terror abroad to people in Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, and elsewhere, not to mention beats its war drums in anticipation of intervention in Cuba and war with China. All fuelled by the occupation of Hawai'i and abuse of its people. And the U.S. military is no stranger to using and abusing fuel, as the world's largest polluter, using 21 billion liters of fuel every year, more than the total carbon emissions of Denmark. Our armed forces create 750,000 tons of toxic waste every year. The military continues to pollute here as well, as we know-- of what we know, that is, of depleted uranium being shot and scattered to the wind, mountains, ocean, and soil of this land, of this 'āina. There is a profound entitlement with which the U.S. military presumes to occupy these lands, resting on not only the absence of recognition of any wrong being done to the self-determining people of Hawai'i, but not even affording the barest pretense of reparation for the harm acknowledged in name only by the U.S. government when it "apologized" for its role in the illegal overthrow. 1 dollar will never be enough for sixty-five more years of continued abuse, occupation, and export of the same on a broad international scale. Self-determination and reparations for the Hawaiian people!

## Sorcha McCarrey

Yeah. It's Sorcha McCarrey.... I'm reading a statement on behalf of my political party, the party for socialism and liberation. My name is Sorcha. I am a haole who grew up in Lai'e on the North Shore of Oahu, where I attended Kahuku High School. It wasn't until after high school that I learned of Hawai'i as center of the Pacific, and it wasn't until after that that I learned that not only is Hawai'i the center of the Pacific, it's the center of U.S. imperialism in the Pacific. From here, the U.S. pursues its agenda of endless war and military aggression towards other colonized nations. The United States has been engaged in armed open conflict with other countries 23 of the 25 years I have been alive and has militarily occupied Hawai'i for over four times that. Hawai'i's lands and Hawai'i's people, the kanaka maoli, are treated as raw, extractable commodities to fuel the U.S. war machine, which currently sends soldiers, weapons, and terror abroad to people in Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, and elsewhere, not to mention it beats its war drums in anticipation of intervention in Cuba and war with China -- all fueled by the occupation of Hawai'i and abuse of its people. The U.S. military is no stranger to using and abusing fuel -- as the world's largest polluter, using 21 billion liters of fuel every year, more than the total carbon emissions of Denmark. Our armed forces created 750,000 tons of toxic waste every year. The military continues to pollute here as well, as we know -- of what we know, that is, of depleted uranium being shot and scattered to the wind, mountains, ocean, and soil of this land, of this 'āina. There's a profound entitlement with which the U.S. military presumes to occupy these lands, resting on not only the absence of recognition of any wrong being done to the self-determining people of Hawai'i, but not even affording the barest pretense of reparation for the harm acknowledged -- in name only -- by the U.S. government when it apologized for its role in the illegal overthrow. One dollar will never be enough for 65 more years of continued abuse, occupation, and export of the same on a broad international scale. Self-determination and reparations for the Hawaiian people.... Yes. That's it. Thank you.



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Mara McCart

give hawaii back to it's people get out

August 28, 2021

OAHU ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI. 96801-3444

I am writing to comment on the proposed renewal of the Army leases for both the Kawaihoa/Poamoho Training Area on Hawai'i Island (23,000 acres), the Kawaihoa/Poamoho Training Area (4,370 acres), the Kahuku Training Area (1.170 acres) and the Makua Military Reservation (760 acres). The Army has been paying \$1/year for 65-year leases on this land. This is an outrage on so many levels!

As a kupuna (elder) in the Hawaiian community, I am appalled and extremely devastated at the U.S. government's continued use of Hawaiian lands for these training purposes. Land ('aina) is precious to the Hawaiian people; it is what sustained our kupuna from the discovery of the Hawaiian islands to the greedy takeover of this very special place at the overthrow of our Queen in the late 1800's. Today, thanks to the continued governmental takeover – overthrow, annexation, statehood, etc., Hawaii imports the vast majority of its food, with one big reason being that our lands are not available or unable (not healthy enough, water sources not available or blocked by outdated leases, etc.) to provide what it did for our ancestors. Hawaiians believe land is precious, and it is – it can provide the means to which one can feed his/her family, a place for that family to live, etc. The streams that flow through these lands provide food as well, recreation for our families, teaching opportunities for our keiki (children), etc.

The United States military has unfortunately overused, gutted and frankly cheated the Hawaiian people out of its very life source. This has to stop. Return Hawaiian lands to Hawaiian hands, remove all live ordinance, and provide restitution to the Hawaiian people monetarily to help our lands "live" again.

One last comment – I was unable to send an email to post this in appropriate email form and also unable to get on to the online comment form. I do hope this was not done on purpose, to limit public comment. I also hope that this letter reaches the appropriate office by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, the deadline, and if not, that it will be a part of the public commentary made during this period in spite of being unable to access the above.

  
J. Mahealani McClellan

## MEGAN MCCLELLAN

The U.s. military should not have access to this much land. It's stolen and unnecessary. In this day and age, you should lead by example and give the Natives back their land before Hawaiian turns in to another bikini bay.

## Shannon McClish

I am writing in opposition to this project due to concern for the natural environment and local community that would be adversely affected. The land in question is indigenous land, and the military does not have the right to go forward. The natural ecosystems in Hawaii are under incredible stress and pollution from spills into water bodies will only make it worse such as previous Military Nitrate spills into the ocean that increased Honu mortality). Additionally in a climate crisis the high carbon emissions associated with military operations is unacceptable. This is not a project that is in the islands best interest.

## Douglas McCracken

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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**From:** Douglas McCracken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 17:31  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Douglas McCracken

**Koa Futures**  
EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O’ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Douglas McCracken
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
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I AM:	A resident of O’ahu
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These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the

Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the

study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



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## Finn McFadden

The army must relinquish these lands at the end of their lease and return their ownership to the Hawaiian people. This land must be maintained by and for Native Hawaiians in order to help maintain the delicate ecosystem in Hawaii.

## Gigi McGaughey

I vehemently oppose the army's intention to extend their lease on land stolen from native Hawaiians. The United States has exploited this land and its people for far too long and the least of the reparations they can make is to return the land to natives. Shame on the US military for even suggesting they continue to perpetuate the harms they have caused on land that is not rightfully theirs. The American people do NOT support the US army's continued exploitation of Hawaii.

## Kahoiwai McGee

I'm just gonna keep it short and simple. The islands of Hawai'i have been inhabited by one too many foreigners over the past century. And with that also came with the rise in the cost of living. We natives struggle to find affordable housing on our own land. The United States Army had signed a \$1 lease in 1964 for a total of 65 years. Not only is the price outrageously inexpensive but the Army has also violated the agreement by damaging countless native ecosystems, left depleted uranium and other contaminants. Oh and not to mention the bombing of Kaho'olawe that took place before in 1941. The islands of Hawai'i are not the Militaries test subjects! Due to what's been going on it shows that they have no care whatsoever for the well being of our islands. And that we are in fact the Militaries test subjects, 'a'ole (no). Enough is enough. While we are grateful all the Army does for us, we do not appreciate our land being destroyed. Enough is ENOUGH. Mālama 'Āina. Take care of our land! We don't have much it left and if you are going to inhabit our 'āina then it is your kuleana to mālama our 'āina. Our land was taken from us and it is time we get it back. Do not allow the Army to inhabit the Hawai'i Islands anymore. Do not extend the lease. The Army hasn't been keeping up with the inspection of the bases for a clear reason. They are ruining our islands and don't want to be held accountable for it.



## Kyleigh McGuire

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

## Keith McHugh

Hello,

I do not want my tax dollars to continue to fund a military presence on Oahu. There is no need for an army base here and continuing to fund this takes land away from Hawaiians for no purpose. Give this land back; stop playing war games.

Peace,  
Keith

## Nedi McKnight

Aloha kākou,

I respectfully ask that the U.S. Army no longer be granted leases for State Lands in Hawai‘i. Of course we all understand that the soldiers must train, but using Hawai‘i as a training ground is not working. The military has proved, through many years, that military training and ecological preservation do not go hand in hand.

The world is a big place and we know that our military’s technology and strategy has evolved.

There is no longer a need to blow up or shoot weapons in a fragile island ecosystem. The Army has proved that they are not able (not out of malice- it is simply mechanics) to be good stewards of the land.

There is NO reason, when kānaka maoli (Native Hawaiians) are going homeless or being forced to live in very expensive substandard housing, that state lands should be leased to the military for outrageously low amounts.

Residents know that military families drive up rent (because they have subsidies) and buy up housing. This causes housing shortages. Residents know that military families shop at the PBX, not local. The young soldiers (regardless of rules) drink to excess in Honolulu and in our neighborhoods. We hear and feel the bombs go off on the Island of Hawai‘i.

We see and breathe in the military pollution. There is no reason! Military is very high tech now. We don’t need all these training facilities, and certainly don’t need them on small, densely populated islands.

Find somewhere else to train. We understand that Hawai‘i is geographically and strategically important. That doesn’t mean you have to train here.

Kind regards, Nedi McKnight

**From:** [Nedi Milk'oi McKnight](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Public Input for Continued Use of State Lands on O‘ahu, Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area and Makua  
**Date:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 10:34:16 AM

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Aloha kākou,

I respectfully ask that the U.S. Army no longer be granted leases for State Lands in Hawai‘i. Of course we all understand that the soldiers must train, but using Hawai‘i as a training ground is not working. The military has proved, through many years, that military training and ecological preservation do not go hand in hand.

The world is a big place and we know that our military’s technology and strategy has evolved.

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Find somewhere else to train. We understand that Hawai‘i is geographically and strategically important. That doesn’t mean you have to train here.

Kind regards,  
Nedi McKnight

## Adriene McNeil

"Aloha. My name is Adriene McNeil and I'm a resident of Honolulu. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military houses on lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 some fucking bullshit. Since 1964 pardon my French. Sorry, a little frustrated from the state for \$1 since 1964 when the lease is expiring 2029 this land should be immediately this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you for your time. "

## Teddy McNerney

Hello, I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to you to demand that you end the US Leases in Hawai'i. They are damaging the country catastrophically for the benefit of the elite. Restore and return the lands to the people they rightfully belong to.

Stop your military programs in countries you have no right to set foot in.

**From:** teddy mcnerney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:02  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Return Hawai'i

Hello, I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to you to demand that you end the US Leases in Hawai'i. They are damaging the country catastrophically for the benefit of the elite. Restore and return the lands to the people they rightfully belong to.

Stop your military programs in countries you have no right to set foot in.

## Sarah McPhie

The lease should not be renewed. If there is no question about it being renewed, there are many things that could be done to reduce negative impact on the island of Hawaii and its indigenous people. One example is that a smaller area could be leased at a fair market rate. Please consider other ways to reduce harm to indefinite people and wildlife.

Kelly McQueston

Leave! It's not your land.

Sierra Mcveigh

#landback

## Alfred Medeiros

Aloha. My name is Alfred Keakuhana Medeiros. I want to comment about what's going on with the military extension of lease. I believe we shouldn't extend anymore leases to the military on any of the Hawaii lands. It doesn't matter whether it is Kahuku, Makua, wherever it may be. For the fact is, the military does not take care of the land. The people of this land, actually take care of the land. The military has been destroying our land -- look at Pohakuloa, look at Makua, look at everywhere else in between. The continual of extensions of the land to the military will just continue the same things over and over again. And I'm against that. You know, there's no respect involved. You guys don't pay nothing for the land, you know, basically, releasing it to you for no reason. You know you guys are destroying it every single time. Every single chance to get. You know, I'm calling on behalf of my family--military veterans, you know, my mom, my dad, my sister, my brother, you know, is this Is just ridiculous what you guys are doing. You guys have no consideration to the people you know. You guys have to do something about it. And we're going to do something about it. If there's nothing so I say no to any more extension of the land, regardless of the environmental impact statement because it's already been shown that you don't even need that. To just to see what's going on. Look at Pohakuloa, what you guys did, look at Makua, what has been done. So, please guys review your history review your research, do your guys homework because we have done it. Aloha

## Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros

Okay. So aloha, everybody. My name is Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros. I'm from a group called The Military Ain't Shit. Simple as this. I don't care where you guys do your environmental impact statements at. The military continues to destroy our "aina, our land, and disregard our people of this land. Simple as that. You guys come here tax-free with dollar for 65-year leases. That is just ridiculous when we have a waiting list of 37,000 to 42,000 Hawaiians without land. You guys totally disregard any respect for anybody in the culture and continue destruction of our land. Look what's happened to Pohakuloa. Look at Makua. Look at everything that continues to be going on. You guys got to see that the people of Hawai'i has had enough. When we say enough is enough, that means enough. 2029 should not be continued. It should not even be a number for what you guys. You guys should be removed immediately from our land. Simple. Plain and simple. And I'm coming from somebody that was raised with a military family. My mom, my dad, my sister, my brother, my whole family, they pretty much served their time. My dad was in Vietnam. You know, my mom had served. You know, everybody served. But it's not a hit on the military itself. It's the people that are behind the military that continue to disregard anybody -- I mean anybody. You guys have no concern for anybody. You guys believe you guys are the elite, but you guys are not the elite. You guys are in Hawai'i nei, a place of our people, of kanaka maoli. This is our island. This is what we protect. You guys have demonstrated over and over you guys only know how to destruct. Simple as that. I'm going to talk until you guys cut me off. Simple as that. You don't tell me. I'm -- you guys' time is coming to an end. Like I said, my name is Al Medeiros, and my group is called The Military Ain't Shit. Aloha.

## Denise Medeiros

Hi, my name is Denise Kawale Medeiros. I reside on Hawaii Island, and I was a resident of XX street Makaha, close to Makua. And I also used to live in the Makua Beach Park. And 70 considered squatters not so. We were not ever squatters, but we have My testimony is going against and against this is an opposition of extending military leases in Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. I feel that they have been there too long. They have done enough, it has done enough damage. I had done a study when I was attending Windward Community College in the 1990s. There, I found that there was a very rare, rare snail a tree snail that lived in Makua Valley on a single bush their whole life. That whole life of the snails existed on a single bush. And there were many, there were many smells at one time. In the 1990s, there were very few left. Today I ask you. How many of this very rare snails exist? In comparison to 1990s. How much of the Government, the United States military--occupiers of Hawaii nei--has ever done anything that is right for the land of Hawaii, for the areas that they have bombed. I say no, I oppose it out right. I come from Waikane Valley as well where I resided for over 15 years as a farmer; and then Waikane Valley was left a lot of ordnances and have left ordnances lying around every \* where you've been. Extending your stay here does not protect our country, Hawaii. Hawaii. And as a subject of Hawaii, I say no. To any further occupation of the United States military on our property. This has gone on too long. I asked that you folks abide by them, by the mere fact that you know you are occupied, and it means you need to remove yourself. And I do not appreciate, nor do I accept any further extension of your leases anywhere. Makua, Kahuku and it's just, it just should be all done. Complete. Finished. So I oppose it. I oppose ever extending anymore military leases--Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa--just to name three, because there are many more that need to end. Thank you. And my callback number is XXX-XXX-XXX. My address XXXXXXX XXXX Dr., XXXX, Hawaii XXXX

## Jaerick Medeiros-Garcia

Aloha, Kehau ...First and foremost, mahalo to everybody that is in opposition to this situation. My name is Jaerick Medeiros-Garcia. I am from Moku O Keawe, from the Big Island. I stand in opposition to this extension of lease for the U.S. military. It's kind of a touchy situation for a lot of people, but also, you know, American know that they're illegally occupying our lands. They illegally seized it, you know. President Clinton signed the apology letter. And, you know, this mind- boggles me to know that if I was to have something - - if I did something and they said illegal, you know, like how it's illegal occupation, I would be standing in front of court and probably thrown in jail. Why isn't anything happening to the U.S. military? The amount they pay on what they do? Man, we just lost acreage here on the Big Island, and they're right there on Hawaiian Home Lands, never offered nothing, no help, right there. They could have helped us with that fire, saved the lands, and all that stuff. You know, it's sad to see what's going on, and I know it's frustrating for a lot, especially our kupuna that can't participate in this or our kupuna that just can't speak in front of people. This has got to stop already. I mean, I'm pretty sure America can go and hijack someone else. I mean, we didn't have hostage for how long, you know. Let it go already. Now they're saying no presence on the Big Island. Great. We don't need that. We really don't need it. Now they're trying to take over our mauna. We all know TMT is for the military. They just got to leave. I'm in a position to say mahalo to you guys setting all this up. Mahalo very much. Thank you.

## Kalia Medeiros

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... De-occupy the Hawaiian islands. doesn't help natives, doesn't help locals. End military occupation in the islands. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental

impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



**From:** Kalia Ieianani Medeiros <notifications@cognitofirms.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 4:00  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kalia Ieianani Medeiros

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Kalia Ieianani Medeiros
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	<a href="mailto:kaliyam@umich.edu">kaliyam@umich.edu</a>
I RESIDE IN:	Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	De-occupy the Hawaiian islands.doesn't help natives, doesn't help locals. End military occupation in the islands.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently

#### PURPOSES.

held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for

many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS

should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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Mollie Meiner

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Larry Meisgeier

Do not lease public land to the US Military. It only adds to tension with China and preparations for war on our part. Thank you!

Larry MeisgeierMilwaukee, WI

**From:** [Security Alert](#)  
**To:** [DLNR, D. Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PUBLIC LANDS.  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 14:42:58 PM

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Do not lease public land to the US Military.

It only adds to tension with China and preparations for war on our part.

Thank you!

Larry Meisgeier  
Milwaukee, WI

## Fabienne Melchior

Okay. My name is Fabienne, and I'm a haole, but I'm a permanent resident in Hawai'i. I was brought a little bit all over the place. Specifically, I spent my first 12 years in the French colonies in Asia and Africa and later had the distinct displeasure of looking at American soldiers in Vietnam, which I consider being more my -- my heart home. I totally oppose anything that would be to continue that war mentality that we're in right now, especially in America, where basically, this is the largest empire ever. I believe there is something like 9,000 bases for the military around this little planet that we're very, very fast destroying. And if we continue to do the things that have not worked before, guess what? Nothing's going to change. It's the definition of insanity, and we have to stop this violence that begets violence. And starts with enough with the military. Enough with not being able to take care of people and give good health. Enough with the way we treat people that don't look like us. And enough with the disrespect for other people's cultures. And by the way, I lived many years in Tahiti. It's different there, but it's still a colony, except they -- they are regaining their islands. And if the military stays here, it's not going to happen here. Mahalo. Thank you for listening.

## Martin Melkonian

Dear Sirs:I urge that Hawaii refuse to lease public land to the military.That land should be used to preserve the ecological beauty of these precious islands and not for the purpose of war training.Let us in our small way contribute to peaceful coexistence with our Chinese brothers and sisters.Sincerely,Martin Melkonian

**From:** [Martin Melkonian](#)  
**To:** [DLNR,LD,Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Leasing of public land  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 2:47:31 AM

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Dear Sirs:

I urge that Hawaii refuse to lease public land to the military.That land should be used to preserve the ecological beauty of these precious islands and not for the purpose of war training.Let us in our small way contribute to peaceful coexistence with our Chinese brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Martin Melkonian

Alexis Melvin

i oppose the military buying native hawaiian land. it was illegally bought in the first place and the natives are given a literal \$1 a year.  
their queen was forced out and you took over to practice bombing on an ISLAND that you didn't even get permission to be on yall just came in and said "yeh this is mine now".  
your bases have no right to remain there without even proper pay. your insulting them and sitting in your privilege all because generations of you troops overthrew a country of its own who didn't want to fight an unknown invader.if you want a place to bomb so bad create your own island (NOT STEAL ONE AGAIN BUT LITERALLY CREATE YOUR OWN ISLAND)  
i'll never be able to comprehend people who put the land and it's people before the military. at this point y'all are just having fun doing it, training is needed but it's been literal years since a war was gonna break out. i'm sure y'all have practiced enough with weapons and know which ones work and don't.  
you can't just bomb a country and expect it to regrow after your affected it so much. and i'm guessing when that happens you'll just ditch the country and expect islanders to clean up your mess or at least TRY TO.  
honestly, check yourselves it's ridiculous.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Alexis Melvin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:48  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] us military

i oppose the military buying native hawaiian land. it was illegally bought in the first place and the natives are given a literal \$1 a year.  
  
their queen was forced out and you took over to practice bombing on an ISLAND that you didn't even get permission to be on yall just came in and said "yeh this is mine now".  
  
your bases have no right to remain there without even proper pay. your insulting them and sitting in your privilege all because generations of you troops overthrew a country of its own who didn't want to fight an unknown invader.  
if you want a place to bomb so bad create your own island (NOT STEAL ONE AGAIN BUT LITERALLY CREATE YOUR OWN ISLAND)  
  
i'll never be able to comprehend people who put the land and it's people before the military. at this point y'all are just having fun doing it, training is needed but it's been literal years since a war was gonna break out. i'm sure y'all have practiced enough with weapons and know which ones work and don't.  
  
you can't just bomb a country and expect it to regrow after your affected it so much. and i'm guessing when that happens you'll just ditch the country and expect islanders to clean up your mess or at least TRY TO.  
  
honestly, check yourselves it's ridiculous.  
  
Sent from my iPhone

## Melanie Mendieta

Please give Land Back to the Native Hawaiians. That was their land before US colonialism robbed them of their sacred land.

## Mariah Menor

The U.S army does not need to expand anymore on sacred land. The U.S has taken so much from Hawaii when they claimed it as there's and colonized it. As well as the land should not only be a dollar per acre, the U.S army has so much money that they are more then capable to afford the real prices this land holds. Keep this land sacred!

Veronica Messer

Hello!

I am emailing today to say that i oppose the military usage on the island of Oahu, and think that it should be given back to the people of the area.

Veronica Messer

**From:** roni m [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:46  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposing military rental of native land

Hello!

I am emailing today to say that i oppose the military usage on the island of Oahu, and think that it should be given back to the people of the area.

Veronica Messer



Lola Mestas

Aloha. My name is Lola M and I am a resident of North Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo.

**From:** [Lola Mestas](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaiian Occupation  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:25:00 AM

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Aloha. My name is Lola M and I am a resident of North Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo.

## Jacob Metz-Lerman

Please leave Hawaii, the military occupation has done enough environmental damage. History will not look kindly upon your decision to stay. The world is literally on for fire, and we can no longer pretend decisions like this are uncovered unconnected.

## Ellis Mewettsmith

Dear whomever it may concern, Which by the way should be all of us existing as the human race. I oppose you getting Hawaiian homestead land and furthering your occupation of the land all together and destroying it further. Ellis -- -Ellis (\\_/\_/ (='.'=) ( ( )3

**From:** Ellis Mewettsmith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 5:03  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land in Hawaii

Dear whomever it may concern,  
Which by the way should be all of us existing as the human race. I oppose you getting  
Hawaiian homestead land and furthering your occupation of the land all together and  
destroying it further.

Ellis

--

-Ellis (\\_/\_/)  
(='.'=)  
( )3

## Meleanna MEYER

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Any renewal or re-leasing of these lands is not what the Natives want here in Hawai'i, for the following reasons: Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Our focus should be on malama ka ‘āina- Not war games and continued degradation of the earth,

**From:** Meleanna MEYER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 18:31  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Meleanna MEYER

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Meleanna MEYER
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2686
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu A Kanaka Maoli
“I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO BECAUSE...”	Any renewal or re-leasing of these lands is not what the Natives want here in Hawai‘i, for the following reasons:
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY’S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O‘AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer

greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical,

and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including

Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Our focus should be on malama ka 'āina-  
Not war games and continued degradation of  
the earth,

Powered by



## Joe Meyers

Hi, my name is Joe Myers and I'm a resident of Oregon. I'm just going to say I'm strongly opposed to the attention of the military leases. An extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of the area, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for a dollar since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thanks.

## Erick Michaelson

Hawaiian land belongs to Hawaiian people. The US military occupation of Oahu is bad for the island ecology and pollutes land that is sacred and ancestral.

I-1177

## Rae Michelle

I oppose the U.S. military training and taking up space on the island of Oahu, this land was unrightfully taken away from locals by the U.S. military and Native Hawaiians deserve their land back. Bomb testing not only effects natives livelihood but also is destroying their beloved land. Please rightfully return the land to Native Hawaiians, rehabilitate the environment, and move military bases elsewhere without colonization.

I-1178



## Andie Miller

Hello,

My name is Andie Miller and I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā to the US Army. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native species, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 a year since 1964. When the leases expire, these lands should be immediately returned to the native people.

Thank you, Andie Miller

**From:** A Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:54  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā

Hello,

My name is Andie Miller and I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā to the US Army. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native species, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 a year since 1964. When the leases expire, these lands should be immediately returned to the native people.

Thank you,  
Andie Miller



## Mari Miller

The lease should not be renewed. The US military emits more carbon than most countries on the planet. As an island, Hawaii is especially at risk for climate disasters. By returning the land to Native Hawaiians, we can reduce the harm that every single person on this planet will experience as climate disasters ramp up.

## Lyn Milo

The occupation of Hawaiian land by the US military is resulting in desecration of the native Hawaiian's home. I urge you to NOT renew your lease and let the land be tended to by the people who live there and not outside military forces.

## Sophia Milone

One of the biggest polluters on earth— the U.S. army— should not and can not be permitted to control, disturb, and harm any land in Hawai'i. Native Hawaiians should have full sovereignty on whether or not U.S. systems are managed and built on their islands. The U.S. military will create environmental destruction despite following any environmental legislation or ordinances; development is harm, imperialism is harm, war is harm.

## Colleen Minarich

What is happening is wrong. The land occupied by the military should go back to Hawaiian natives.

## Madison Minjarez

Aloha, My name is Madison and I'm a resident of Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extensions of military leases on the islands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of the leases will allow the military to do further damage to the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local communities. The Army/All Military forces have wrongfully leased these lands from the state for a \$1 since 1964. When the lease expired in 2029, the land should immediately be restored and gifted back to the public.

## Yuri Miyabara-Treschuk

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākuā Military Reservation, Mālama Mākuā has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

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**From:** Yuri Miyabara-Treschuk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 18:56  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Yuri Miyabara-Treschuk

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Yuri Miyabara-Treschuk
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	<p>Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ʻāina. The leasing of ʻāina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ʻāina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on Oʻahu. The Council on Environmental Quality</p>

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākuā, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākuā Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the

eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Rita Miyamoto

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.



From: Rita Miyamoto  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Rita Miyamoto  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 21:45:23 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Rita Miyamoto

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We

need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

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lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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## Mitchell Molloy

Please stop the occupation of Oahu and give the land back to indigenous people. We need clean water, oceans and land. And we don't need a military base there. Almost everyone who knows what's going on doesn't want you there.



## john Momenty

Aloha

My name is John and I am a resident living here. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

## Mariana Monasi

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The state is supposed to take care of the land, Kanaka maoli and the natural resources on this occupied land. There is constant budget strains for OHA/DHHL, while a great percentage of native Hawaiians experience homelessness on their own land, while the US military pays \$1 for a 65 year lease to abuse the land, deplete resources, perpetuate colonialism, patriarchy, colonialism and continues displacing Hawaiians. Stop bombing, stop leaking chemicals into our water, stop displacing people. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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From: Mariana Monasi  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Mariana Monasi  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 17:10:51 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Mariana Monasi

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu 96822

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

The state is supposed to take care of the land, Kanaka maoli and the natural resources on this occupied land. There is constant budget strains for OHA/DHHL, while a great percentage of native Hawaiians experience homelessness on their own land, while the US military pays \$1 for a 65 year lease to abuse the land, deplete resources, perpetuate colonialism, patriarchy, colonialism and continues displacing Hawaiians. Stop bombing, stop leaking chemicals into our water, stop displacing people.

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STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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## Shirlena Monroe

Hawaii has a long and terrible history of colonization. Despite this, many indigenous people remain and should have reparations made for the centuries of brutal treatment. The military is on land that should be given back to Hawaii. They should not be allowed to lease it any longer.

## Laurie Moore

As an organization working with military families, I support the ability of the Army and all other services including our state's National Guard and the US Marine Corps to train on both Oahu and Pohakaloa Training Area. We have all seen how important the US Military presence is to Hawaii's economy and understand the environmental impact statement and community engagement with all parties is vital to military readiness, as these training areas are key for supporting any military actions in Indo-Pacific.

## Nadine Morris

As a US citizen, I think we should give the native Hawaiian people back their land.

## Abigail Mountz

Aloha, I am a resident of North Carolina and I am strongly opposed to the renewal of this lease and request the removal of military presence in Oahu. Thank you.

## Summer Kaimalia Mullens Ibrahim

Okay. Aloha 'aina. My name is Summer Kaimalia Mullens Ibrahim. I am a lineal descendant of James Kaiamahelanihi of Makua. I am exhausted by this process. It takes so much out of me each time that I -- each time I struggle to bring myself to the point of commenting. And worse, we all know that this is just to check off the military's to-do list. And we've been saying the same thing for decades. Clean up, and pack out. I'm here to reiterate the same thing tonight. Are military missions truly more important than the lands and peoples that are affected by both the training and the actual aggressions that have been implemented globally, leaving behind generations affected by birth defects from depleted uranium, communities without clean water or land which they can produce food on? Does the military truly care about their impacts? For six decades, you've been training in Makua, causing destruction, not only environmental but cultural. Separating us from the lands of our ancestors is a form of genocide, cutting us at the root, leaving generations of displaced people. For much longer than six decades, 'ohana have been separated from our iwi kupuna and 'aina that's fed us for generations. I can't even begin to describe the mental and emotional impact of seeing these lands of my ancestors from behind the barbed wire fence. And, yes, we've been given access to this 'aina, but access is not enough to heal the wounds that have been left, the years of separation from iwi kupuna and from the 'aina of our ancestors. Our survival depends upon the life of our land, and the life of the land is perpetuated by Ea, our sovereignty. Each time I think of access, I remember when I brought my 'ohana to a Makua access to revisit the 'aina of our kupuna, and while waiting to enter, standing outside the barbed wire fence, a young Army soldier is pacing inside, stops, and makes a hand motion as if he's shooting us with a machine gun. This is the greeting we are given by the occupier as we stand outside the lands of our ancestors, the lands they were displaced from. And now I hear the Army has photos of our 'ohana in Makua on display while they continue to desecrate and rattle their bones and propose to continue to use this 'aina for their training. The military promotes itself to be a good steward of the lands they train on. They use our language on their signs. They throw terms around like malama 'aina. But I'm not fooled. I've seen the desecration of Hale'au'au and walked the 'aina where the iwi kupuna were uprooted by bulldozers. I've seen with my own eyes the pollution of natural springs and the destruction of cultural sites in Makua and have walked the areas of Mokapu where iwi kupuna were desecrated and later found in foundations of base housing. I've walked the lands of Pohakuloa filled with unexploded ordnance, seen the environmental and cultural impacts of our food basket at Pu'uoloa. We hear the leaking -- we hear about the leaking military field tanks at Red Hill affecting our precious water resources.... Okay. In the next phase, I want the Army to look at how COLA impacts the rental market and displaces local and kanaka maoli, who get priced out of their homeland. I want them to look into how many servicemembers use their COLA to purchase homes in the islands and how that impacts the housing market and homelessness of kanaka maoli. I want you to look into crime connected to servicemembers in communities near U.S. military bases around the world, including rape, murder, violence, child sex trafficking, et cetera. I want you to look at how your servicemembers affect areas outside of training areas, with pallet fires, off-roading, massive beach parties. Just to be clear, I fully support the no action alternative stressing that the military absolutely needs to be held responsible for cleaning up our waiwai, our 'aina, wai and pae that have been affected by their training throughout years of abuse. Mahalo for hearing me.

## Linda Muralidharan

Hello, my name is Linda Muralidharan, and I live on Oahu. I want to endorse essentially all of what Colonel Ann Wright shed about the 65 year leases of 30,000 acres of Hawaii state land by the US military as it is expected to end these leases in 2029, they should die at that point. Colonel Wright and I have operated and as certainly as a volunteer and she often as a volunteer in parallel organizations that have studied the war of the wars that the United States has participated in, in the last few decades, and I agree with her that they are not the way to solve problems and of course we all know, or at least many people know that they have specifically been losses failures Vietnam. Iraq. Afghanistan, particularly. So it is foolish to keep on putting money into a losing proposition. Secondly, in the future, we probably will have more cyber warfare. And more artificial intelligence and will not need so much of this armature and people or personnel on the ground. So at some point in time, Hawaii is going to suffer great economic loss when the military begins to reduce its actual presence here in Hawaii. We need not be depending on one or two major sources of income or we will become like the rust belt cities. On the mainland, where they depended on one or two industries which eventually died. We need to protect Hawaii, both the lands from foolish use and our economy. By moving away into more diverse ways of raising tax dollars. So these leases ought not to be extended and I think that we do need to look into what happens when we depend too much. Well, the pandemic gave us some lessons. Perfect. Perhaps that needs studying what's happened when the tourist industry died for a period of time. We can't know in the future if it's going to die permanently. We can't know if the military is going to withdraw a major portion of what it expends in Hawaii. So let's start by not renewing these leases, it will protect human life, it will protect Hawaii's economy. And it will make sense for the United States of America to look like we know what we're doing. Thank you so much for listening to my comment. If anybody finds the need to contact me. I have a local number XXX-XXXX again my name is Linda Muralidharan, I reside in Aiea in the island of Oahu. Thank you.



## Kelsey Murphy

I support returning all military occupied land back to Native Hawaiians.

## Zack Murphy

Aloha. My name is Zack Murphy, and I would like to call in objection to the military using our public lands as their training centers. I grew up in Pupukea and I went to high school Kahuku high school and I have hunted the grounds that a military occupies in our mountains. And throughout their training camps they have in the mountains, they kick us out when we're hunting, they leave their rubbish. They leave live rounds of ammunition, they leave MREs not open, they leave countless ammo boxes in our forest along with any runoff that they leave behind from their massive trucks or their refueling or their breakdowns. They leave it all in our mountains and kick us out while we were trying to hunt. All night long, they fire their 50-cal guns and I can hear it from my home in Pupukea all night long. They fly their military helicopters closer than comfort above my home, shaking our house, and it goes on all night long with no Respect for the residences that live here or have any type of comfort going closer to the homes than they need to be. They have zero respect for the land, zero respect for the people, and they abuse the privilege, they have taken from the Hawaiian people and the residents of Hawaii. Under an unlawful occupation of US military on our island, and I would like for them to pull back. To train in America because they have no right to train here bomb our islands, shoot their guns out our forests, kill our natural animals. Which I know they shoot deer and pigs out of helicopters, because I have friends with licenses that partake in these actions. And know a lot of military who tell me that they shoot the animals out of helicopters and they do nothing to clean them up. The animals are left to waste. There's no respect for the animals. There's no respect for the land and things need to change. For the betterment of our people. Aloha.

## Dariq Murray

I don't understand why the government needs to be bombing sacred Hawaiian lands.

## Monica Musgrave

This land needs to be returned to Hawaii. A military presence is unnecessary and unwanted, and it's absolutely ridiculous that it is in possession of the government currently, much less in 8 years and beyond.

## Sophia Muus

The re-leasing of this land to the military is directly against the wishes of the Hawaiian people and is a passive form of oppression. The military leases on these lands expire in 2029 and should end there. This has gone on long enough.

## Ash N

Hello,I am contacting you as a concerned community member to demand that the US military end their unlawful occupation of 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu used for training. Do not negotiate new leases. The people of Hawai'i have been displaced by Army presence since the very beginning. Allow it to expire in 2029, or cancel it now.Thanks,A

**From:** [Ash N](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] PROTECT O'AHU  
**Date:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:22:57 AM

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Hello,  
I am contacting you as a concerned community member to demand that the US military end their unlawful occupation of 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu used for training. Do not negotiate new leases. The people of Hawai'i have been displaced by Army presence since the very beginning. Allow it to expire in 2029, or cancel it now.  
Thanks,  
A

## Brian K Naeole

As a Lineal descendent as a pure kanaka mō'ali its my Right to protect what's Legally and Rightfully to save this History and this part of the world FOREVER. It's so shocking to read history to see how the KINGDOM OF HAWAII Was stolen ?

A very good example the January 6 2021 insurgent

Perfect example of who to trust and who not to trust. Back to the lease lands in Hawaii. In this part of the world who is still the Real owner. ROYAL ALLODAIL TITLE LAND PATIENT TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FOREVER. LAND COMMISSION AWARD. It's my Birth right to do what right to save my finding fathers who gave us the knowledge to stand and to make sure that this doesn't happen to any other Nations in the world because education takes us there. Who gave you the right of \$1 a year

The whole situation of the problem is the military as a bully they need to admit that they did WRONG.

I want to end with this this is catastrophic putting human lives in DANGER.

## Nathan Nahina

"Aloha. This is Nathan Nahina, a resident of Wahiawa. I am against the leasing for military lands especially in Kawailoa and Poamoho area. I experienced in my lifetime, getting denied access to the rivers and streams of the area when I was trying to teach my kids and get in touch with get in touch with the aina and getting in touch with the land. Showing them how to fish, how to gather, just enjoying and feeling free amongst all this craziness. But getting denied to that that spot which is so special to us and our family of this place. I don't, I'm all against the so Let's, let's look at how all of these lands can be used to possibly farm, teach the kids whats actually more important, taking care of this place is not money is not power. Give back to the community and just Be good. Take care of this place so that the our kids that their kids and their kids generations have something to live for. "

## Megumi Nakama

Aloha. My name is Megumi Nakama, I am a resident of Chicago, Illinois. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. Extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the states for one dollars and 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Bruce Nakano

Hi Represenitive Perruso, i have read your article about the military leasing our state lands. Currently i believe kalaeloa is a lot of land that could be used for other productive things, the military has all beautiful hawaiian lands on our coastline. My safety concern is that their helicopters flying low over homes when it is not nessasary. I live in royal kunia and there are flying daily, all it takes is one accident into homes. With the recent air accidents i would think its just a matter of time. They are suppose to fly over agriculture land, golf courses, forrest, and highways. With the routes that they currently take from kalaeloa to campsmith and kaneohe flying over homes are avoidable. They also fly so low that your house vibrates and rattles, you cannot even have a conversation or hear your television . Please assist us in this issue. I contacted Captain Branch army he tries to assist. Marines, and the faa but no help. Joint base pearl harbor and hickam must have a dummy phone that no one answers.

Aloha Bruce Nakano

## Karen Nakasone

Aloha mai kākou,  
I am writing to urge you to release Makua back to the people of Hawai‘i.  
I had the privilege of visiting the valley once and was struck by the mana the valley exudes, the important archaeological sites, and at the same time, heartache that the valley is being abused. There is a very special relationship that Hawaiians have to ‘āina that the military does not understand, therefore, cannot interact and care for this place in the way that it deserves.  
Please do not renew the lease.  
Ke aloha nui,Karen Nakasone

**From:** Karen Nakasone  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua Valley Lease  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 13:51:15 PM

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Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing to urge you to release Makua back to the people of Hawai‘i.

I had the privilege of visiting the valley once and was struck by the mana the valley exudes, the important archaeological sites, and at the same time, heartache that the valley is being abused. There is a very special relationship that Hawaiians have to ‘āina that the military does not understand, therefore, cannot interact and care for this place in the way that it deserves.

Please do not renew the lease.

Ke aloha nui,  
Karen Nakasone

## Makana Nalehua

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... kanaka maoli and kama'aina deserve affordable housing and the preservation of ancestral lands. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and

historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

Makana Nalehua

USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments

[Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Makana Nalehua

Sunday, August 29, 2021 5:26:37 AM

Koa Futures

EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

Entry Details

MY NAME IS:

Makana Nalehua

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN:

Boston, Massachusetts 02126

I AM:

A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

kanaka maoli and kama'aina deserve affordable housing and the preservation of ancestral lands.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for



\$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are

representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Powered by



## Brittany Namaau

Aloha, my name is Brittany Namaau Im a resident of Utah. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Waihiwa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for 1\$ since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

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**From:** Brittany Namaau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:20  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Us Military Lease

Aloha, my name is Brittany Namaau Im a resident of Utah. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Waihi.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for 1\$ since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## Charla Naone

Okay. Aloha mai kakou. O Charla Leiali'i Naone kou inoa. I am from Nanakuli, Oahu. I am a Native Hawaiian daughter and mother. I spent many days of my childhood and my life pretty much on the sands just fronting Makua, and I always dreamt of a day when our valley could be free.

I strongly oppose the continuation of the lease of Hawaiian lands by the U.S. military. You see, in our culture, we place extreme value in our families and our 'aina. They are one and the same.

I understand that this hearing is in regards to an EIS, but we all know the truth, that your plan is to just, you know, throw some papers together and move on with it and continue bombing of our lands. But I just want to make it clear that you have many of us that are in strong opposition to the extension of really any of these leases.

The U.S. has shown time and time again that they do not take care of not just Hawai'i, but any land that they're on, whether it's Okinawa, Philippines. I mean, look at the Middle East. We're withdrawing from the Middle East, and their land and their people, the land and the people are always damaged.

And furthermore, you know, the military on Oahu and in Hawai'i has taken the most beautiful parts of us. And it's just the damaging. We can't take it anymore. It's not just the land and the people. It's our culture, and it's who we are. It's time for the military to move on. It's time for our 'aina to return to us.

Yes, it'll take decades. Even if you clean it, it's still going to take decades for this land to heal. But enough is enough. Mahalo.

## Jarika Naputo

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... these lands belong to Native Hawaiians. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



From: Jarika Naputo  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jarika Naputo  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 6:47:16 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Jarika Naputo

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

these lands belong to Native Hawaiians.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for

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Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense

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These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands

from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through

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## Courtney Nelson

Please leave Hawai'i. Hawaiian natives deserve the land you occupy. This is a huge issue! Did you know that President Grover Cleveland acknowledged that the Hawaiian Kingdom was unlawfully invaded by United States marines on January 16, 1893, which led to an illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian government the following day. Hawaiian land was never meant to be occupied by U.S. military. Give the land back to the native people!

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## Luke Nemy

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**From:** Luke Nemy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 20:56  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Luke Nemy

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Luke Nemy
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, California 96819
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
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## Spencer Ng

DO NOT LET THEM RENEW THE LEASE, REMOVE THE MILITARY, GIVE THE LAND BACK TO PEOPLE WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ECOSYSTEM AND NATIVE POPULATION.

The military has shown over and over again that they do not have any regard for the land and its management. This is true in Hawaii, the continental US, as well as other countries/islands that the US has taken.

The history of forceful occupation and absolute disrespect for native peoples proves the intentions of the military are not to protect the people, but rather they stand to cut down and obliterate any attempt at reclaiming what has been wrongly taken.

As an organization, the US military does not care, has not cared, and will likely never care about the thoughts, opinions or welfare of anyone except themselves.

## Theresa Ng

Date: August 24, 2021

Re: Opposition to O‘ahu Army Training Land Retention

As a resident of O‘ahu all my life, I constantly see the impact the military has on the ‘āina and the Native Hawaiian people. It is discouraging to see that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders make up the near majority of persons experiencing overcrowding or homelessness in Hawai‘i.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the majority of the military personnel I have interacted with are residing in desirable single-family homes. The U.S. government has had a long history with the islands, with constant talk about repairing relationships with the Native Hawaiian people—the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was one way. But as plain to see, there is currently not enough land “available” to carry out this act in good faith. Should the Army continue to hold onto the proposed 6,300 acres of land, the ability to provide the Native Hawaiian people with their promised land provisions will be far from adequate.

Even if the proposed lands for retention will not be rezoned as housing for Native Hawaiians, the areas where the Army seeks to continue their lease are significant in the Native Hawaiian culture. Specifically, cultural practitioners consider the Makua Valley as the birthplace of humans.<sup>2</sup> It is vital to note that this is not the first instance in which non-Native actions have intruded on cultural beliefs and values; the TMT continues to push ahead despite the thousands of Native Hawaiians who have protested against it. Should we continue to ignore the voices of thousands of Natives Hawaiian people, we are only moving further away from the goal of reconciliation.

Perhaps what is most affronting is that up until 2029, the land that Native Hawaiians consider sacred has essentially no monetary value—considering the Army paid just a single dollar for their dominant usage. The terms of the proposed continued lease will most likely be different but, the Army has still yet to make good with the Native Hawaiian families (and other O‘ahu residents) forced out of the areas after World War II. While countless persistent disputes contribute to the discord between the Native Hawaiian people and the military, this issue is resolvable by returning the lands.

Ultimately, Army training will not stop whether or not they have control over these state-owned lands. The Army still holds onto 12,000 acres of U.S. government-owned areas to continue to run drills, aviation training, etc.<sup>3</sup> Returning the 6,300 acres of land is a necessary first step for the Army to address the historical injustices imposed onto the Native Hawaiian people and foster an

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-research-072417.html>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/08/a-shaky-truce-the-army-and-native-hawaiians-both-want-oahus-makua-valley/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://home.army.mil/hawaii/application/files/5716/2691/2876/OahuEIS\\_Posters-210720.pdf](https://home.army.mil/hawaii/application/files/5716/2691/2876/OahuEIS_Posters-210720.pdf)

amicable relationship the U.S. government has been vocal about having. I am in **strong opposition** to the proposed O'ahu Army Training Land Retention.

## Haley Nichols

Aloha, my name is Haley from Nashville, Tennessee. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuka, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you for your time.

## Margaux Nielsen

Hi, My name is Margaux Nielsen, and I am a resident of Los Angeles, California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. I visited the islands this summer, and it was painful to see the impact of the military and colonialism on the local community. I hope we as Americans can recognize the wrong of our occupation of Hawaiian land and take steps towards positive peace. Thank you, Margaux

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Margaux Nielsen](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:17:41 AM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Thank you,  
Margaux Nielsen

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Natalie Nimmer

This island is already crowded with an out-sized military footprint. The land could be repurposed for a use more aligned with Hawaiian values. Please consider the big picture of how these land resources can best serve the population on this small Pacific Island. Training can be done elsewhere.

## Jacob Noa

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... the continued occupation of these lands for military trainings and activities is detrimental to the land, our natural resources, sacred sites of historical and cultural significance, in addition to the health and well-being of adjacent communities.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural

access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

As a resident of O‘ahu, I am constantly assailed by the sounds of gunfire from military training exercises and the loud roar of military aircraft flying directly overhead. This serves as a constant reminder of our homelands being treated as a glorified military base, with no thought to the effect on the land or the people who live here. If the Army claims any sort of concern or duty toward the people of the land which it occupies, it must begin the process of scaling back its military operations and begin returning these lands to the people.

**From:** Jacob Noa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 12:21  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jacob Noa

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Jacob Noa
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	MILILANI, Hawaii 96789
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	the continued occupation of these lands for military trainings and activities is detrimental to the land, our natural resources, sacred sites of historical and cultural significance, in addition to the health and well-being of adjacent communities.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua



Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact

analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of

conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural

I-1263

Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

As a resident of O'ahu, I am constantly assailed by the sounds of gunfire from military training exercises and the loud roar of military aircraft flying directly overhead. This serves as a constant reminder of our homelands being treated as a glorified military base, with no thought to the effect on the land or the people who live here. If the Army claims any sort of concern or duty toward the people of the land which it occupies, it must begin the process of scaling back its military operations and begin returning these lands to the people.

I-1264



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## Kalani Nozaki

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anāe, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. Please add any personal comments here. Please the military trash the land and use it however they like with no respect to the locals or this place I call home!

From: Kalani Nozaki  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kalani Nozaki  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 15:32:50 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Kalani Nozaki

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the

nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL COMMENTS HERE.

Please the military trash the land and use it however they like with no respect to the locals or this place I call home!

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## Amy O

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Hawaiian lands belong in Hawaiian hands. Military housing programs are already driving up the real estate market while 40,000 Hawaiians are dying on the Hawaiian Homes list. Everyone has to pay to play, especially in an illegally occupied state. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and

intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaioloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



From: Amy O  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Amy O  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 21:09:52 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Amy O

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

Hawaiian lands belong in Hawaiian hands. Military housing programs are already driving up the real estate market while 40,000 Hawaiians are dying on the Hawaiian Homes list. Everyone has to pay to play, especially in an illegally occupied state.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands

serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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Elizabeth Oakes

I am writing to ask that you refuse to lease Hawaiian lands to the US Army.

**From:** [Elizabeth Oakes](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hawaii  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:25:54 AM

---

I am writing to ask that you refuse to lease Hawaiian lands to the US Army.

Shannon Lokelani Oberle

Aloha United States Military EIS Conferees,

With respect for your roles as community advocates, I urge STRONG OPPOSITION to extend military leases that degrade aquifers, important agricultural land and conservation land in the Hawaiian Kingdom, specifically in regards to the current Makua, Kahuku, Kawaiolo, and Poamoho leases.

The crux of the matter is the United States military has already left behind detrimental military waste in our environment. There needs to be an extensive exit plan of these leases that includes a large financial backing and grit to implement clean up. The responsibility of cleaning should not reside with the Hawaiian people.

Furthermore, it is vital to protect soil quality and life-sustaining water sources. With appreciation to reconsider the proposed military radar facility and waste storage in Kahuku, the EIS should consider existing methodology that designates important agricultural land on Oahu. See City & County Resolution 18-233. Yield water flow to proposed Important Agricultural Land (AIL) on the North Shore of Oahu. The Kahuku lease site is too close to agricultural land, which has potential to feed our communities.

The people of urban Oahu need military waste clean up, too. The health and environmental risks associated with the existing leaky fuel storage located in Moanalua at Red Hill are very high.

Consider military expansion outside of the Hawaii Kingdom. It is our home. We value our natural resources here. STRONGLY OPPOSE military lease extensions.

Me ke aloha,  
Shannon Oberle

**From:** Lokelani Oberle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 14:24  
**To:** noelani@kalipienterprises.com; gtam@hivetsolutions.com; USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox  
NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] STRONGLY OPPOSE military lease extensions in Hawaii.

Aloha United States Military EIS Conferees,

With respect for your roles as community advocates, I urge STRONG OPPOSITION to extend military leases that degrade aquifers, important agricultural land and conservation land in the Hawaiian Kingdom, specifically in regards to the current Makua, Kahuku, Kawaiolo, and Poamoho leases.

The crux of the matter is the United States military has already left behind detrimental military waste in our environment. There needs to be an extensive exit plan of these leases that includes a large financial backing and grit to implement clean up. The responsibility of cleaning should not reside with the Hawaiian people.

Furthermore, it is vital to protect soil quality and life-sustaining water sources. With appreciation to reconsider the proposed military radar facility and waste storage in Kahuku, the EIS should consider existing methodology that designates important agricultural land on Oahu. See 2021 City & County Resolution 18-233. Yield water flow to proposed Important Agricultural Land (AIL) on the North Shore of Oahu. The Kahuku lease site is too close to agricultural land, which has potential to feed our communities.

The people of urban Oahu need military waste clean up, too. The health and environmental risks associated with the existing leaky fuel storage located in Moanalua at Red Hill are very high.

Consider military expansion outside of the Hawaii Kingdom. We have a history of neutrality. Hawaiians do not want to be entangled with American military engagements. Hawaii is our home. We value our natural resources here. STRONGLY OPPOSE military lease extensions in Hawaii.

Me ke aloha,  
Shannon Lokelani Oberle

## Isiuwa Oghagbon

The illegal occupation of Hawai'i is disgusting. US colonialism has ruined the land and lives on those beautiful islands. Hawai'i was illegally taken and needs to be returned to its rightful inhabitants.

## Devin Oishi

Because the United State is occupying the Hawaiian Nation there is no way to extend what is an invalid lease. I think only Pearl Harbor's lease was negotiated with the Hawaiian government. However, that treaty was invalidated after the occupation of the Hawaiian islands was initiated. Since the US and its conspirators destroyed the Hawaiian Government and attempted cultural genocide, negotiations must be completed after the US recognizes the sovereignty of the Hawaiian people and the Kanaka Maoli to choose a government.

## Andrea Olivas

The military is illegally occupying Hawaii. You are pushing Native Hawaiians out of their land and destroying their natural resources. Give the land back to indigenous people and stop military occupation in Hawaii. Y'all really are not needed anywhere ever so stop.

## Shambrea Oliver

Hi, my name is Shambrea, I'm a resident of California. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of the military's leases on the lands Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases would allow the military to cause further damage to the natural resources, habitats of the plants and animals in these areas. It would also further disrupt the lives of the local community. The military has wrongfully leases these lands since 1964 for only a \$1. A dollar! When the lease expires the land should be given back to the public and the lands restored.

## Zyreal Oliver-Chandler

Aloha,

My name is Zyreal Oliver-Chandler and I am a resident of Tacoma, Washington. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. Although I am personally not a Hawaiian native, I am an ally with many Hawaiian close friends that would be impacted by this extension.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank You for your consideration,  
Zyreal

## Willow Olson

I highly oppose the renewal of any and all permits/allowances continuing and allowing army training to further desecrate the island land, air, life forms and water with bombs and firearm ammunition as well as opposing the army presence/occupation of O'ahu furthering the displacement of indigenous people and their homeland from resources that they are native to.



I-1286

## Lena Orlando

Aloha. I grew up on the island of Hawai'i and have family members in the military. I feel it is important to stop military training and maintain the land as natural open space. Open space as a natural resource is increasingly important as populations rise, sea levels rise, and climates change. Climate change is hitting island nations hardest. One tool in the kit is to maintain ecology of the land in order to create a natural system that can help reduce impacts of climate change. Open space can allow rainwater to percolate into aquifers and help reduce rising temperatures, etc. I am writing to encourage not to just stop military exercises, but also to remove possible pollutants left behind and to restore the area, while ensuring it remains in its entirety as open space. Restoration of this area (and as much open land as possible) is immensely and immediately necessary to increase natural resource sustainability.  
 Mahalo nui loa!

I-1287

I-1288

## Catherine Orleans

"My name is Catherine Orleans. I'm a resident of Nanakuli O'ahu. I strongly opposed extension of these military leases on our native Hawaiian Lands. Any extensions will further allow the federal government to damage our natural resources and not mentioned that they haven't even DONE anything about the Red Hill fuel tank. So that that needs to be done first with your EIS before you even consider any type of extension on any type of client land. So no, no to any destroying of our natural habitat. No to destroying of land for future generations of native Hawaiians and no especially no for anytime at least \$1 for more than a year. Hello. What is, what is the Imperial Military of the United States doing to people on their own land, like now you consider this your land, it should be here for thousands of years to come, that you're going to use it to be destroyed and practice destroying other people's land around the world. You just need to stop already, we need to go forward in peace. And we need to start with showing our land our peace. mahalo "

## Preston Ornellas

Okay. Let me just thank you guys for taking the time out of your lives to do this, give us a platform to let you know how we truly feel.

My name is Preston Kamuela Ornellas from the island of Kauai, born and raised in Wailua. My grandfather was a veteran buried at Punchbowl Cemetery. My dad is a Marine, fought in Vietnam. I was raised by a military man.

I don't agree with renewing the leases, first of all, and I'm pretty sure you guys got the message clear. I just want to talk briefly on the history. And, you know, this is the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

That's a true fact. Another fact is you guys have a nasty track record of not caring about the environment. Another historical fact is you are illegally occupying us right now.

Another historical fact is the people of this islands don't trust the military. There is no such word when it comes to the relationship between the kanaka maoli and the U.S. military. So that --that word is -- is really touchy. You should think twice about using that word, and you should really deeply think about the meaning of that word and the history of that word in this -- in this whole islands.

Another thing I want to point out about history is the threatened plants, the animals, all the species in here that is super threatened. And you got the history of the U.S. military. You guys never show no -- no aloha, no love to that.

And then the kanaka voice is another point I want to make. They're in total opposition of the presence of the U.S. military in the fake state of Hawai'i. The land of the free, the home of the brave -- this is the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And you guys need to -- you need to really open up your eyes and -- and wake up, because the future, unlike me, how I was raised with lies in an American history class, these -- these young youth coming out of Hawai'i today, they're being raised with the truth, so that they know it right out of the gate. You guys are illegally occupying Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time. I wish you guys all the best. And, Colonel, please, please open up your mind to everybody's -- I don't know the words, but the heart that they're coming with. Thank you very much. Aloha.

## Kathryn ORourke

Aloha,  
My name is Kathryn O'Rourke and I'm a resident of New York, NY, USA. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. In light of our current CODE RED climate emergency, it would be ignorant and despicable not to.

Thank you,  
Kathryn

## Kiana Otsuka

"Aloha. My name is Kiana Otsuka and I am a Honolulu resident. I'm calling to let you folks know that I'm strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases for Makua, Kahuku and Waiawa. I believe that an extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities in those areas. I'd like to ask that when the leases expire in 2029 that's the land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you very much and have a good evening. Bye. "



**From:** Kiana Otsuka [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:50  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kiana Otsuka

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Kiana Otsuka
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for

\$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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## Kiana Otsuka

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

## MICAH PACATANG

I do not support retention of the Kahuku, Kawaiiloa/Poamoho, and Makua training areas by the United States Army. The lands would be better suited for O'ahu's housing shortage and/or agriculture.

## Lysandra Padeken

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It is time for our crown lands to be returned to its rightful owners, the Native Hawaiians and general public. Enough with the military occupation of OUR lands. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Lysandra Padeken  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 17:25  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Lysandra Padeken

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Lysandra Padeken
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Kahaluu, Hawaii 96744
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu A Kanaka Maoli
“I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...”	It is time for our crown lands to be returned to its rightful owners, the Native Hawaiians and general public. Enough with the military occupation of OUR lands.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY’S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O‘AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead



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residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented

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Megan Padua

The Army land lease should NOT be renewed.

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## Aleka Pahinui

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. The noise & desecration is disturbing. Save our sins from the pollution.



**From:** Aleka Pahinui [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:25  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Aleka Pahinui

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Aleka Pahinui
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Waialua, Hawaii 96791
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by



further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further

ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface

archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

The noise & desecration is disturbing. Save our  
sins from the pollution.

## Kathleen M. Pahinui

Aloha – At the North Shore Neighborhood Board these 2 issues come up consistently: Helicopter Noise – this has been a huge issue for the North Shore, Oahu community for well over 30 years. All attempts to work with the Army on mitigating this concern has fallen to the side and not one conversation / meeting has resulted in a solution. Ever. Claims of not flying over neighborhoods are not true. I live in the flight path and see the helicopters flying over my home. And the fears of an accident are very real – witness the tragic accident from several years ago. Traffic – traffic plans are sent to our board as part of training and maneuvers and they are seldom followed. Given the traffic woes we already face, having large military vehicles on the road adding to the mess is not sustainable. Our community should not be held hostage to unnecessary traffic. These need to be studied in the EIS and fixed permanently. Malama 'āina, Kathleen M. PahinuiChair, North Shore Neighborhood Board #27

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**From:** Kathleen Pahinui [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 14:22  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu Training Land Retention Scoping

Aloha –

At the North Shore Neighborhood Board these 2 issues come up consistently:

Helicopter Noise – this has been a huge issue for the North Shore, Oahu community for well over 30 years. All attempts to work with the Army on mitigating this concern has fallen to the side and not one conversation / meeting has resulted in a solution. Ever. Claims of not flying over neighborhoods are not true. I live in the flight path and see the helicopters flying over my home. And the fears of an accident are very real – witness the tragic accident from several years ago.

Traffic – traffic plans are sent to our board as part of training and maneuvers and they are seldom followed. Given the traffic woes we already face, having large military vehicles on the road adding to the mess is not sustainable. Our community should not be held hostage to unnecessary traffic.

These need to be studied in the EIS and fixed permanently.

Malama 'āina,

Kathleen M. Pahinui  
Chair, North Shore Neighborhood Board #27

## Koohan Paik-Mander

The 65-year leases of 30,000 acres of Hawai'i state land by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The State of Hawai'i should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers.

We are subjected to a daily dose of the U.S. military build-up for what the Indo-Pacific command is calling "our enemy China." We know what happens when the U.S. tries to resolve disputes through military action---millions of persons dead and wounded, including tens of thousands of U.S. military, as evidenced by the wars in Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Ultimately disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue, so why are we spending trillions on weapons that ultimately to not solve the situation?

Our real enemy is our inability to address the climate catastrophe we have caused. Floods, fires, storms and mudslides are the enemy, not China. Redirect the \$740 billion 2022 budget toward ecological restoration and diplomatic talks with China.

## Koohan Paik-Mander

Aloha. My name is Koohan Paik-Mander. I am a resident of Hawai'i island. I oppose the extension of these leases. This land belongs to the kanaka maoli, the original people of these islands. This land is their bodies, their blood, their bones, their genealogy. To conduct war exercises on this land is a crime against humanity and desecration. It is said that the best way to commit a crime is to make it legal. That is what these lease extensions would achieve. I oppose the legalization, as it were, of these human rights crimes in the form of these lease extensions. These lease extensions are to accommodate a military agenda focused on war with China. It's just one man's piece of the full-throttle plan to transform the vast Pacific ecosystems into ranges to train for a global war. This perverse idea that World War III is likely has justified an \$800 billion weapons budget for 2022 for missiles and weapons of mass destruction, all aimed at China. It is the ultimate expression of anti-Asian hate. You have to be either a complete moron or totally brainwashed to think that our biggest threat is China. It's all too painfully clear that our biggest threat is not China. It's the climate crisis. It is the biblical-scale floods sweeping away medieval villages in Europe, and in the same week the floods in China washing hundreds of cars across highways like so much flotsam and jetsam and drowning subway commuters. It is the fires burning whole California towns to the ground and the wildfires and grease turning the islands into a suffocating hellscape. There is a wildfire in Siberia burning out of control right now that is larger than all the other wildfires in the world combined. In Siberia, the coldest place on the planet. Hundreds of acres of crops are withering right now without water in California, the nation's breadbasket. And now the IPCC just stated just this week that we don't have a decade to save the planet, like they said in 2019. We've got 18 months. So, Pentagon, you've got 18 months and an \$800 billion budget. What are you going to do? The Pentagon is the world's largest single emitter of greenhouse gases. The Pentagon emits more greenhouse gases than the nation of Denmark, more than Sweden, more than Portugal. And for what? To deploy weapons of mass destruction and generate profits for the arms industry with endless military training like at Pohakuloa, like at Kahuku, like at Makua Valley. Climate cooperation with China, not war, is the only path to a livable future. Stop the war games. No extension of state leases to U.S. military. Thank you.

## Kyle Paist

Aloha,  
My name is Kyle Paist and I'm a resident of New Milford, Connecticut. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.  
Thank you.  
Kyle Paist

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#); [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Stop the Military Lease Renewal (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:49:26 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS Comments

**From:** Kyle Paist [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:23 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Stop the Military Lease Renewal

Aloha,

My name is Kyle Paist and I'm a resident of New Milford, Connecticut. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you.

Kyle Paist

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Merle Pak

Testimony Opposed to the Renewal of Military Leases Submitted by Merle Pak August 31, 2021  
Aloha, My family has lived in Hawaii for five generations and consider these islands our home. I am a mother, a grandmother, a retiree from the health care industry here, and a daughter of a Korean War vet.

I am adamantly opposed to the continued use of Hawaiian lands for the purposes of the US military, in particular, I oppose the renewal of the military leases currently under review by the US Army. The US military argues that they need the land to prepare because of a potential threat of attack by China, or North Korea, or Russia. They say that Hawaii is the ideal location for training in military war maneuvers. My position is that the more militarized the Hawaiian islands are, the more likely we become a target for these adversaries. We the people have no quarrel with the people of China, Russia, or North Korea. It is the history of US expansionism, competition for world resources, and global domination that puts us in this position today.

In addition, the US military has proven itself to be a poor steward of the land. Kahoolawe bombing has been stopped, but the island is still far from being cleaned up. Same with the valley of Waiahole, which was used to train for WWII. Same with the dumping of excess military equipment and weaponry off the Waianae coast, where remnants have washed ashore and endanger the health and welfare of the children there.

Please, no more destruction of Hawaiian land for military training, on Oahu, or anywhere else. No more leasing of Hawaiian land to the US military.

Mahalo, Merle Pak Kaneohe, Hawaii

**From:** [Kiyo Pak](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Testimony re: US Military land leases  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:38:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony Opposed to the Renewal of Military Leases.docx](#)

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Please submit this as a comment from a Hawaii resident.

Mahalo,  
Merle Pak

Testimony Opposed to the Renewal of Military Leases  
Submitted by Merle Pak  
August 31, 2021

Aloha,  
My family has lived in Hawaii for five generations and consider these islands our home.  
I am a mother, a grandmother, a retiree from the health care industry here, and a daughter of a Korean War vet.

I am adamantly opposed to the continued use of Hawaiian lands for the purposes of the US military, in particular, I oppose the renewal of the military leases currently under review by the US Army.

The US military argues that they need the land to prepare because of a potential threat of attack by China, or North Korea, or Russia. They say that Hawaii is the ideal location for training in military war maneuvers. My position is that the more militarized the Hawaiian islands are, the more likely we become a target for these adversaries. We the people have no quarrel with the people of China, Russia, or North Korea. It is the history of US expansionism, competition for world resources, and global domination that puts us in this position today.

In addition, the US military has proven itself to be a poor steward of the land. Kahoolawe bombing has been stopped, but the island is still far from being cleaned up. Same with the valley of Waiahole, which was used to train for WWII. Same with the dumping of excess military equipment and weaponry off the Waianae coast, where remnants have washed ashore and endanger the health and welfare of the children there.

Please, no more destruction of Hawaiian land for military training, on Oahu, or anywhere else.  
No more leasing of Hawaiian land to the US military.

Mahalo,  
Merle Pak  
Kaneohe, Hawaii

## Amy Palmer

I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases on the lands of native Hawaiian people. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands, stolen from the native population, for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public. Extending these leases will further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community.

## Jaidyn Pang

"Aloha. My name is Jade and paying and I'm a resident of Haleiwa. I am strongly opposed the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native plants, plants and animals, and continually disrupts the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully least these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964 when the laces expire and 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you. "

Magda Papaioannou

Aloha,I am a resident of Maryland and I strongly oppose the lease extension. Extensions of these leases will further damage than natural habitat and environment. Please do not extend this military lease.  
Thank you

Magdalena Papaioannou [REDACTED] Caution: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Magda Papaioannou [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:03  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Stop us military lease extension

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha,  
I am a resident of Maryland and I strongly oppose the lease extension. Extensions of these leases will further damage than natural habitat and environment. Please do not extend this military lease.  
  
Thank you

Magdalena Papaioannou  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Jaquelyn Parker

I oppose the re-leasing of this land because the US military is harming the native environment and native peoples by occupying land that never belonged to them and only adds insult to injury by leasing it for \$1. As someone who works in government, it saddens me that we continue to dishonor Hawaii by destroying their lands.

## Kamaka Parker

To extend leases of state lands to parties the state are not obligated to serve and protect while not caring for the native Hawaiian people, whom they do have an obligation to serve, is ridiculous! Why are the leases of thousands of acres occupied by the military being given precedence over distributing leases to Native Hawaiian through the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920. No lease should be renewed and these lands should be leased to the rightful descendants of this land. To continue this negligence should be illegal and Hawaiians deserve better. Stop these extended leases now!

## Lee Parks

Do Not Extend \$1 Lease on 23,000 acres of Hawai'i State Lands in Military Pōhakuloa Training Area.

The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers. These lands were given away without the consent of the Hawai'ian people essentially for free, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel for 65 years!

Hawaiian's are subjected to a daily dose of the U.S. military build-up for what the Indo-Pacific command is calling "our enemy China." Yet disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue. It is insanity spending trillions on weapons that ultimately do not solve the situation.

Hawai'i's culture of peace and dialogue must be brought back using the Hawaiian technique of "ho'oponopono" — rather than the islands being used as a base for projecting the U.S. propensity for killing over diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries.

REDUCE the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii by the State of Hawai'i and refuse to re-lease 30,000 acres currently used by the U.S. military.

Sincerely,  
Lee Parks

## Amy Parsons

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Hawaiian land should be returned to Hawaii. It's that simple. If that is not yet a possibility, Hawaii should be paid market rate plus some for the acreage. The military has enough funds to make that happen. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anāe Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should

address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

**From:** [Amy Parsons](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF JD-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Amy Parsons  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 18:30:28 PM

## Koa Futures

EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku,  
and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Amy Parsons

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Kailua, Hawaii 96734

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-  
LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA,  
KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO  
BECAUSE...

Hawaiian land should be returned to Hawaii.  
It's that simple.  
If that is not yet a possibility, Hawaii should be  
paid market rate plus some for the acreage.  
The military has enough funds to make that  
happen.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands

serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to

which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Cognito Forms

## Caleb Pascale

Over a century ago, the United States illegally stole Hawai'i and invaded its islands with the U.S. military.

Today, Hawai'ians are still opposing these illegal occupiers & protesting military leases on their sacred places.

Please protect Hawai'ians' lands from U.S. lease. This has gone on too long. We are demanding for these lands to be returned & restored back to Hawai'ians as well as to discontinue the abuse of Hawai'ian lands for colonizer military trainings.

Sincerely,

Caleb PascaleHe/him

---

**From:** Caleb Pascale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:23  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Discontinue illegal occupancy of Hawai'i

Over a century ago, the United States illegally stole Hawai'i and invaded its islands with the U.S. military.

Today, Hawai'ians are still opposing these illegal occupiers & protesting military leases on their sacred places.

Please protect Hawai'ians' lands from U.S. lease. This has gone on too long. We are demanding for these lands to be returned & restored back to Hawai'ians as well as to discontinue the abuse of Hawai'ian lands for colonizer military trainings.

Sincerely,

Caleb Pascale  
He/him

## Bruce Pascua

Let me start off by saying....Show me the "Treaty of Annexation" between america's government and the Hawaiian Kingdom and it's government. You may think so that the Hawaiian does not exist but it still does exist, in continuity. There can be no dialog pertaining to land leases or any other leases what so ever without said Treaty in hand. As you should know and sure you have talk about it and with me not having to go through the song and dance routine, that Hawaii is not and has never been part of america and its military has no rightful claim to any land what so ever and has no right to be here in the Hawaiian islands. For 128 years since the Illegal over throw of the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by america, your country has played this Charade with the rest of the world. Stop hiding the Truth as to why america and its military is occupying the Hawaiian Islands. Lastly, Do not forget, you are in the Hawaiian Kingdom.....not in america....

## Healohaokawailani Pascua

Aloha,

O Healohaokawailani ko'u inoa. Noho nei au i Wahiawā. Hewa nui ka extension of military leases ma ka aina o Mākua a me o Kahuku a me o Wahiawā.

Aloha, I am Healohaokawailani. I am a resident of Wahiawā. I strongly opposed the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further destroy the natural resources of this land. It will destroy natural habitats of endangered species of native animals and plants, all the while disrupting the locals that have lived here for many many years. The Army has wrongly leased these lands for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

It is really frustrating to hear the practicing of fire arms in the late evenings. I live near one of the many training areas for firearms, not too far from the water tower in Wahiawā. The loud booms and shootings really stir up the neighborhoods in the evening.

This is my opposition letter to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

Mahalo,

Healohaokawailani Pascua

**From:** [Pascua Healoha](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposition of lease extension  
**Date:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 22:04:46 PM

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Aloha,

O Healohaokawailani ko'u inoa. Noho nei au i Wahiawā. Hewa nui ka extension of military leases ma ka aina o Mākua a me o Kahuku a me o Wahiawā.

Aloha, I am Healohaokawailani. I am a resident of Wahiawā. I strongly opposed the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further destroy the natural resources of this land. It will destroy natural habitats of endangered species of native animals and plants, all the while disrupting the locals that have lived here for many many years. The Army has wrongly leased these lands for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

It is really frustrating to hear the practicing of fire arms in the late evenings. I live near one of the many training areas for firearms, not too far from the water tower in Wahiawā. The loud booms and shootings really stir up the neighborhoods in the evening.

This is my opposition letter to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

Mahalo,

Healohaokawailani Pascua

## Minerva Patino

I would like to share my concern with the US military renewing their lease on Hawaii. The land should be going back to the people of Hawaii not the US military, destroying the land, species living there, and any other significance that it holds for only a dollar, it's absolutely absurd. All of the land that the US military has for destruction and only for a dollar? It's unbelievable and very upsetting, but it is happening and I believe something should be done about it. Raising the price of the lease would not make what the military is doing anymore justifiable or moral. The land should be given back to the people of Hawaii.  
Thank you

I-1339

## Minerva Patino

I would like to share my concerns with the U.S Military renewing their lease on the land in Hawaii. The land should be given back to the people of Hawaii, not the U.S Military. Destroying the land, the species living there, and any other significance that it holds for only a dollar is absolutely absurd. All of the land the U.S Military has for destruction and only for a dollar? It's unbelievable and extremely upsetting. I wouldn't believe it was happening if I didn't read it with my own two eyes. Raising the Prices of the Lease would not make the Military being on the land anymore justifiable or moral. The land should be given back to the people and species of Hawaii, instead of being used the way it is.

I-1340



## Michaela Patton

Hello, My name is Michaela Patton and I am a US citizen residing in Washington. I am writing to urge you to cease military occupation on the island of Oahu as their presence is killing the beautiful land. Indigenous leaders are locals alike are begging you. Pack up and move out now. Thank you,Michaela

**From:** [Michaela Patton](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:57:16 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Hello,

My name is Michaela Patton and I am a US citizen residing in Washington. I am writing to urge you to cease military occupation on the island of Oahu as their presence is killing the beautiful land. Indigenous leaders are locals alike are begging you. Pack up and move out now.

Thank you,  
Michaela

Get Outlook for iOS < Caution-<https://aka.ms/o0ukef> >

## Ashalie Pawe

Aloha, My name is Ashalie and I'm a resident of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plant and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Jessica Payton

My name is Jessica and i am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kayley, Wahiawā. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1.00 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to public.

## Katherine Peck

Aloha,

My name is Katey Peck. As a military spouse, I was fortunate enough to live in Hawai'i for three years and attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. While I am no longer living on O'ahu, I remain connected to many people and places there.

The reconsideration of leases at Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua provides an incredible occasion to reset relations between the U.S. Army and Hawai'i. By demilitarizing and returning stewardship of 'āina (land) back to kānaka maoli (Native Hawaiians), the U.S. Army will be acting in a way is truly pono (good, upright, moral) and respectful toward its host lands and communities.

As a military spouse and a white American, calls for demilitarization and reclamation of land by Native peoples have felt overwhelming to me. I've been led to question many things I understood as truth, and it has taken a lot of learning, reflection, conversation, and action to imagine ways of doing things differently. I don't have all the answers, but I can recognize that there are many wrongs the U.S. Army (among many other institutions) needs to right, and that ignoring things won't make them easier to deal with in the future.

I anticipate that from the perspective of the U.S. Army, there are many compelling reasons to retain control over these lands. But I hope this process will prioritize the voices of those who descend from the stewards of this place, whose ancestors agitated against the illegal overthrow and continued occupation of Hawai'i and birthed a genealogy of activism that lives to this day. There is also precedent for demilitarization of lands in Hawai'i and on O'ahu specifically, which I hope can be used to encourage and guide this process.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and thought.

E mālama pono,  
Katey Peck

## Lee Peele

Place should go back to the people. Heritage sites should be reconstructed/rebuilt and locals/natives should be able to have access with safety. How much land is taken by the state/government/military as is and is off limits? Go Florida and train. Close enough to the environment your looking for if you want to train.

Kemmer Peoples

RETURN THE LAND AND RESTORE ALL THAT WAS TAKEN FROM NATIVES WHEN  
YOU BRUTALLY MURDERED THEM!!!

---

**From:** kemmer peeples [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 19:30  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RETURN THE LAND

RETURN THE LAND AND RESTORE ALL THAT WAS TAKEN FROM NATIVES WHEN YOU BRUTALLY  
MURDERED THEM!!!

## Moananui Peleiholani-Blankenfeld

Aloha! I am Moana Peleiholani-Blankenfeld, from Kalapana, Hawai‘i, and a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I oppose the renewal of any military leases in Hawai‘i and support the “No Action Alternative,” for Kahuku, Poamoho, and Mākua military training sites. As a Native Hawaiian, our land is the key to understanding who we are as a people. We have a deep, spiritual connection with the land. When our land is hurting, so are we. Although I am not from these places (Kahuku, Poamoho, and Mākua), there is a history of generational trauma due to military occupation within our islands. It is my kuleana to be a voice for these places and the people that are of these places as well. I ask you to highly consider the “No Action Alternative” for these reasons: The land has already been through enough hurt by the live fire training. These training sessions do not benefit our islands and people and pollute our land. There is a need for more affordable public housing that these lands could be used for. On O‘ahu, 51% of the people facing homelessness are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Returning these lands would open up an opportunity to provide homes for these people. In addition to the “No Action Alternative,” the military should also plan to clean and restore the lands that they are currently using of all military equipment. By taking the “No Action Alternative,” you will provide an opportunity to heal these places and let the people return to these lands. You will be able to start the healing process for many Native Hawaiian families who have been displaced from these places for many generations. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of ‘āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback. Should you have any questions, please contact me at: XXXXXXX Mahalo, Moana

---

**From:** Moananui Peleiholani-Blankenfeld [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:27  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Support for the No Action Alternative for the State lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha! I am Moana Peleiholani-Blankenfeld, from Kalapana, Hawai‘i, and a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I oppose the renewal of any military leases in Hawai‘i and support the “No Action Alternative,” for Kahuku, Poamoho, and Mākua military training sites.

As a Native Hawaiian, our land is the key to understanding who we are as a people. We have a deep, spiritual connection with the land. When our land is hurting, so are we. Although I am not from these places (Kahuku, Poamoho, and Mākua), there is a history of generational trauma due to military occupation within our islands. It is my kuleana to be a voice for these places and the people that are of these places as well.

I ask you to highly consider the “No Action Alternative” for these reasons:

- The land has already been through enough hurt by the live fire training. These training sessions do not benefit our islands and people and pollute our land.
- There is a need for more affordable public housing that these lands could be used for. On O‘ahu, 51% of the people facing homelessness are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Returning these lands would open up an opportunity to provide homes for these people.
- In addition to the “No Action Alternative,” the military should also plan to clean and restore the lands that they are currently using of all military equipment.

By taking the “No Action Alternative,” you will provide an opportunity to heal these places and let the people return to these lands. You will be able to start the healing process for many Native Hawaiian families who have been displaced from these places for many generations. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of ‘āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at: [REDACTED]

Mahalo,  
Moana

--  
**Moananui V. Peleiholani-Blankenfeld**  
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2023  
William S. Richardson School of Law

Cell: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

## Brittny Kulanui Perez

I oppose any lease extensions for the US military. 1) If you are unable to produce a treaty of annexation no extension should be granted 2) if you are unable to produce a joint resolution that is internationally recognized no extension should be granted. 3) a cession of lands where the parties whose land was Ceded was compensated 4) if all documents are not produced then that is automatic admittance of (a) illegal occupation and (b) an act of war against the Kingdom of Hawai'i and its subjects (c) the true laws of the land is still that of the kingdom of Hawai'i and shall hence forth be enforced and the Kingdom restored and all military occupied lands be immediately de-occupied with restoration plans and budgets proposed and paid for by the United States of America.

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to lease extension (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 10:08:39 AM

---

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: Brittny Perez [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 8:15 PM  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to lease extension

Seeing as the public forum and the number to post my testimony Both did not Work properly i will be posting it below instead.

I Brittny Kulanui Kapuleokapiolani Naliipoaimoku Perez oppose any lease extension for the military on the basis of these conditions: I oppose any lease extensions for the US military. 1)If you are unable to produce a treaty of annexation no extension should be granted 2) if you are unable to produce a joint resolution that is internationally recognized no extension should be granted. 3) a cession of lands where the parties whos land was Ceded was compensated 4) if all documents are not produced then that is automatic addmittance of (a)illegal occupation and (b)an act of war against the Kingdom of Hawai'i and its subjects (c) the true laws of the land is still that of the kingdom of Hawai'i and shall hence forth be enforced and the Kingdom restored and all military occupked lands be immedialty de-occupied with restoration plans and budgets proposed and paid for by the United states of America.

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Brittny Perez

Seeing as the public forum and the number to post my testimony Both did not Work properly i will be posting it below instead. I Brittny Kulanui Kapuleokapiolani Naliipoaimoku Perez oppose any lease extension for the military on the basis of these conditions: I oppose any lease extensions for the US military. 1)If you are unable to produce a treaty of annexation no extension should be granted 2) if you are unable to produce a joint resolution that is internationally recognized no extension should be granted. 3) a cession of lands where the parties whos land was Ceded was compensated 4) if all documents are not produced then that is automatic addmittance of (a)illegal occupation and (b)an act of war against the Kingdom of Hawai'i and its subjects (c) the true laws of the land is still that of the kingdom of Hawai'i and shall hence forth be enforced and the Kingdom restored and all military occupked lands be immedialty de-occupied with restoration plans and budgets proposed and paid for by the United states of America.

Kristen Perreira

GET OFF OUR LAND

Elaina Perry

This land does not, and should not be occupied by the US army. This is native land and it is due time that the US army gives the land back to its rightful inhabitants, the Hawaiian people. It is wrong that the army only paid \$1 to lease this land and the lease should not be renewed. It is time for land back.



Johnnie-Mae Perry

Contract W9128A-19-D-0008

To All:

Meeting at Leilehua Golf Course on Aug. 9 & 10 OR 10 & 11, 2021 from 6-9 p.m.?  
Which date?

Table: 7-1 Consulted Parties  
Community Institutions & Organizations

Missing from the list is  
Malama Makua  
Hui Malama

Why are they not consulted? The Army is very familiar with these group, long relationships with them going back in the early 1970-1980s.

Sincerely,

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry  
Resident of Waianae

**From:** [Johnnie-Mae Perry](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox](#) [NEPA Comments](#); [G70 - ATLR Oahu EIS](#); [daisy.b.pate@usace.army.mil](#); [dlnr.land@hawaii.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua Military Reservation Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, July 26, 2021 13:54:41 PM

---

Contract W9128A-19-D-0008

To All:

Meeting at Leilehua Golf Course on Aug. 9 & 10 OR 10 & 11, 2021 from 6-9 p.m.?  
Which date?

Table: 7-1 Consulted Parties  
Community Institutions & Organizations

Missing from the list is  
Malama Makua  
Hui Malama

Why are they not consulted? The Army is very familiar with these group, long relationships with them going back in the early 1970-1980s.

Sincerely,

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry  
Resident of Waianae

Johnnie-Mae Perry

Contract: W9128A-19-D-0008

Dear All:

Announcement of the above should be advertiser in the Westside Stores, call 808-696-7978 for more information, asap. This is the Waianae Coast Community monthly newspaper which is distributed to all that reside in 96792.

Thank you for immediate consideration.

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry  
Waianae Resident

**From:** [Johnnie-Mae Perry](#)  
**To:** [dlnr.land@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlnr.land@hawaii.gov); [daisy.b.pate@usace.army.mil](mailto:daisy.b.pate@usace.army.mil); USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments; [G70 - ATR Oahu EIS](#); [wss@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:wss@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua Military Reservation Notification-ASAP  
**Date:** Monday, July 26, 2021 14:36:04 PM

---

Contract: W9128A-19-D-0008

Dear All:

Announcement of the above should be advertiser in the Westside Stores, call 808-696-7978 for more information, asap. This is the Waianae Coast Community monthly newspaper which is distributed to all that reside in 96792.

Thank you for immediate consideration.

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry  
Waianae Resident

Johnnie-Mae Perry

See attachment.

Thank you,

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Resident of Waianae WCNB #24 member

**From:** [Johnnie-Mae Perry](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#); [daisy.b.pate@usace.army.mil](#); [dlnr.land@hawaii.gov](#); [ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 20:40:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Makua 7-23-2021 PERRY.docx](#)

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See attachment.

Thank you,

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry  
Resident of Waianae  
WCNB #24 member

August 20, 2021

RE: Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu (EIS Preparation Notice)

To whom it may concern:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, resident of Waianae and member of the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board #24 **support 2.3.4 No Action Alternative for Makua Military Reservation**. See Exhibits 1-1 and 2-12.

Email: [REDACTED]

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Summary

Type of Document: Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN)

**Project Name:** ...**Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i**

**Applicant:** U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) &  
U. S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM)  
G70

**Agent:** 111 S. King St. Suite 170  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Contact: Jeff Merz, AICP  
Phone: (808) 523-5866  
Email: [ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design](mailto:ATLR-OAHU-EIS@g70.design)

**Accepting Authority:** State of Hawai'i (State)  
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)  
**EISPN Triggers:** Use of State lands (Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) 343-5(a)(1)  
Use of any land classified as Conservation District by the State  
land use commission under Chapter 205 (HRS 343-5(a)(2)

**Project Location:** **Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i**

**Judicial District:** **Wai'anae**

**Tax Map Keys, Landowners,** All project parcels are owned by the State and administered by DLNR

**Administrators, and Approximate Acreage** \* **Makua Military Reservation (MMR), 760 acres-**  
**TMKs 1-8-1-001:007 and 008; 1-8-2-001, 022, 024 and 025**

**State Land Use District** **MMR – Conservation District**

1-1

### 2.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not retain any of the State-owned land on **MMR after the current lease expiration**.

**(Current leases expire on Aug. 16, 2029).**

**The No Action Alternative** includes the following potential Army actions and responsibilities:

- Continue to use all State-owned land until the current lease expires.
- No longer fund or manage conservation and public use programs in the State-owned land after expiration of the current lease.
- Restore the State-owned land in accordance with the lease or otherwise negotiated with the State. The parameter for restoration of the State-owned land not retained would be defined and determined after completion of the EIS.

**The No Action Alternative** would release the Army from the following actions and responsibilities:

- Control and management of the State-owned land at the expiration of the current lease.
- Management of potential archaeological sites, fire prevention and control services, and ungulate control on State-owned land.

The Army would have access to U. S. Government-owned lands but would have no access to its utilities and infrastructure on State-owned lands, which could affect wildfire prevention and firefighting activities, training, range operations, and range and emergency services communication. **The No Action Alternative** would result in the loss of approximately 44 percent of the maneuver land on O'ahu (USARHAW, 2017b).

For **MMR**, Federal Executive Order (EO) 11166, *Setting Aside for the Use of the United States Certain Public Lands and Other Public Property Located at the Makua Military Reservation, Hawaii*, issued in 1964, provides for access rights. The Army would continue to have access to U. S. Government-owned lands via State-owned lands at **MMR** under the **No Action Alternative**. The Army would however no longer have access to portions of the Company Combined Arms Assault Course and have access to State-owned lands currently used for maneuver and other types of training and support facilities.

2-12

## Johnnie-May Perry

No, no, no worries. So in today's paper, "Secretary of Army supports training ground lease renewal". That's Christine Wormuth. I know you have orders, and this is your orders. I would say no action, but to restore Makua.

And the bottom line is Hawaii economy. It's -- it's not against the people, but it's Hawaii economy. Now, if everybody -- war isn't -- war is very ugly. Nobody likes war. We prefer peace. But with war come destruction. And there's other -- other ways, and with today's technology, you just push the button, and the whole world can be blown up.

But it's about Hawaii's economy. It's our legislature in Washington, D.C., that have a hand in this. But, you know, I was looking forward to 2029, but unfortunately, House Bill 499 came around, and it changed things. And how convenient that the governor put on a proclamation today which no in-person hearing is taking place. How convenient that came about.

I have nothing against the military. It boosts our economy. There's plus and minuses, and you're just doing your duty like you are expected to do. If not, we could be invaded by Russia, China. And, of course, there's other places to train. But it goes back to Washington, D.C., and Pentagon. So I would ask no action, but restoration. Mahalo.

## U'ilani Perry

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... We don't want to hear the bombs or training anymore and we'd like to cultivate our 'Āina and give it the love it deserves. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military

training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

**From:** [U'ilani Perry](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - U'ilani Perry  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:13:30 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: U'ilani Perry

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Wai'anae, Hawaii 96792

I AM: A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho  
A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

We don't want to hear the bombs or training anymore and we'd like to cultivate our 'Āina and give it the love it deserves.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian

lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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Cognito Forms

## Ikaika Pestana

I oppose extending the army's lease. They degrade our lands with their violent mechanized weapons and explosions. They endanger nearby American citizen civilians. They waste land with bombs that the people of Oahu desperately need for growing food and building housing. That public land is worth millions and to just give away for \$1 is a crime against Hawaii's citizens. The military crowd locals out of limited housing. They jam up our roads with traffic. They mostly shop tax free at the NEX or the commissary. They don't contribute meaningfully to Hawaii.



## Ingrid Peterson

Okay, I'm from the windward side, Kailua, where I've grown up since I was a little girl. My husband's goes back generations here. And this is just a little -- I'm actually on the fence as far as the military continuing operations in these areas, because I do know we have a need for a military and that they need a focal place to train. My father was in the Navy on the East Coast during World War II. My mother-in-law witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor from the hills of Honolulu and went down with her mother, who was a Red Cross leader, and was there for three days. She was only 12 years old and will never forget it. So my main concern that I wanted to bring up is the biological resources, the natural resources, specifically, the plants and animals in these areas. Some of these areas I've actually been hiking, up in Kahuku area and up in Pupukea. I think I've actually been illegally hiking there when I was young, but -- and they're very beautiful. I know, as Darius mentioned, that we -- well, actually, I didn't know we had 80 percent of the endangered species. But that makes sense, because Hawai'i, I know, has the most extinct species of at least of any place in the world, I believe. My friend used to be head of the Nature Conservancy when it was called the Bird Project, because we had so many extinct birds. Anyway, I just am concerned about you studying the state of the species in these areas, especially the upland areas up in the forests and the higher elevations, and studying the plants and the animals and to see what state they're in now. I mean, you can't go backwards, but perhaps you'll have some sense of what, if any, damage has been done, and looking for ways to mitigate any harm, because Hawai'i is a very fragile natural environment, as you know. And I learned recently from my state house representative, Patrick Pihana Branco, that with climate change -- and I know just from growing up here in the '60s, it's gotten much, much hotter -- but from climate change and with the heat, the temperatures being hotter here now, the mosquitoes are going up to higher elevations and endangering the birds in the uplands. And I'm sure there are other effects of climate change. So that's it, basically. I'm just really concerned about the biological resources and hope you'll be taking great measures to mitigate that. Thank you.

## Manny Petersen

Hello, my name is Manny Peterson is my last name. My number is XXX-XXX. I'm calling in regards to the lease extension for the military in Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. I'm calling to oppose this extension and I would like to leave my testimony in regards to them, please give me a call back at XXX-XXXX. Mahalo

## Rebecca Pierpoint

We have seen time and again the destruction and disregard that the U.S. military causes to the land and waters, contributing to the constant new extinctions of bird species and sea life. Their occupation of this sacred land, including using areas such as Koho'olawe and Western Oahu for targets, is built on stolen land, the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani, and the obliteration of the indigenous Hawaiian empire. The insult added to much injury is that the US Military leases this state-owned land of Wahiawa, Makua and Kahuku for \$1. There is no price one could put on this land, and this lease, ownership, and stewardship should be given back to the people of Hawaii. In the event that this lease is renewed, the US Military must at least compensate the state and people of Hawaii not just adequately, but generously. The US Defense Department's newest budget calls for \$715 billion, and we are clearly no longer spending trillions on the failed war in Afghanistan, so there is absolutely money in the budget. The question is, does the US Military negotiating this lease understand fairness, reciprocity, and responsibility enough to do what's right?

## Melodi Pierro

Hello, my name is Melodi Pierro, and I am a resident of Oakland, California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately released to the public.  
Thank you for considering my comment.

## Heidi Pihana

Welina mai!

I'm in opposition of the extension, continuation or negotiation of the military leasing public lands. To further allow the use of our native land for exploratory, military drills and occupation has gone on for way to long and end to come to an end.

Growing up I had the privilege of living at Mākua in the 80's. My dad moved us to Mākua because work was slow and financially he was unable to provide for us. He grew up in Maui at "Raw Fish Camp" and he knew that fishing could feed us and bring in income. At Mākua we lived next to Pops & Ma Rapoza, they taught my siblings how to live from the 'āina (land), kai (ocean) and how to mālama (take care) the resources we had. There were 12 families at the time still living at Mākua, living from the 'āina and stewards of the 'āina like the generations before them.

I was only 6 years old at that time. The military was already occupying the valley of Mākua. War games was practice there, at nights was the worst the bombing that to place would shook the land and the vibrations trembled our home and us. The bombing would lead to fires at times and the whole valley would burn. Mākua valley flourished with māile lauli'ili'i and other native ferns at one time but not now, not after years of bombing and burning. I'm against military continuing to lease land at Poamoho, Kahuku, and Mākua.

Mahalo  
Heidi "Kini" Pihana  
Resident of Ma'ili

## Keahi Piiohia

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Every piece of our aina that can be cultivated must every space that can be left alone so our native ecosystems can be restored and thrive... not bomb, driven over, fires, oli and gas spilling for machines and vehicles. The aina needs a rest and put back in the the hands of people who will care and restore for the betterment of the people of Hawaii and not the American military. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Mahalo... let’s get our Aina back

**From:** Keahi Piiohia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 18:03  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Keahi Piiohia

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Keahi Piiohia
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A Kanaka Maoli
I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	Every piece of our aina that can be cultivated must every space that can be left alone so our native ecosystems can be restored and thrive... not bomb, driven over, fires, oli and gas spilling for machines and vehicles. The aina needs a rest and put back in the the hands of people who will care and restore for the betterment of the people of Hawaii and not the American military.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and

properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiavā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL COMMENTS HERE.

Mahalo... let's get our Aina back

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## Marisa Plemer

To the extension of 65-year leases to US Army Training sites in Makua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa, Oahu, because I am a lifelong resident who lives in between Kahuku and Kawaihoa who is and probably has been in the direct line of “fire” incurred during the times when they conduct “training” while burning, bombing, littering and polluting our beloved and sacred lands. I say, NO MORE destruction because food, water, and shelter are all in critically short supply and with “climate change” all the people of these islands are facing catastrophic scenarios. What has been the outcome of the discovery of plutonium pollution on the Island of Hawaii many years ago? Who will tell us the truth? Where can we find any answers? As a resident, what is the effect on my health and my family’s health?

It is incumbent upon our political leadership and each and every resident to refuse to allow any further desecration and destruction by the US military when the 65-year leases expire in 2029. To preserve our homelands for our children, grandchildren, and posterity we must support the “NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.”

Sincerely, Marisa M. Plemer

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Marisa Plemer](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Melinda Sonoda-Pale](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I support “NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE”  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 18:14:13 PM

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To the extension of 65-year leases to US Army Training sites in Makua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa, Oahu, because I am a lifelong resident who lives in between Kahuku and Kawaihoa who is and probably has been in the direct line of “fire” incurred during the times when they conduct “training” while burning, bombing, littering and polluting our beloved and sacred lands. I say, NO MORE destruction because food, water, and shelter are all in critically short supply and with “climate change” all the people of these islands are facing catastrophic scenarios. What has been the outcome of the discovery of plutonium pollution on the Island of Hawaii many years ago? Who will tell us the truth? Where can we find any answers? As a resident, what is the effect on my health and my family’s health?

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Sincerely, Marisa M. Plemer

Sent from my iPhone

## Hilina‘i Pokely

Aloha, everybody. My name is actually Hilina'i Pokely (phonetic). I'm 19 years old. I'm from the island of Kauai, and I'm just going to be brief. I just wanted to start out talking about that, you know, even though Hawai'i, we are now part of the U.S., but we make up 1 percent of their total land mass, yet we are responsible for 44 percent of their endangered plant species. And as indigenous people, we are responsible for 80 percent of the global biodiversity, so when you talk about the environment and what you have done, it's a joke. And, you know, the future is kanaka oiwai, and we will not be silenced. And although I don't know how seriously you will take this meeting and our voices and what we have said, but the land is our life, and we will fight forever until it is restored to us. Mahalo.

## Barbara Pope

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... These lands are part of our heritage and should support our physical and spiritual health and wellbeing through agriculture, hunting, cultural practice, open space, and conservation. Our great grandparents and grandparents families worked and lived in these these lands and cared for them. Being restricted from access to these lands results in being separated from our connection to the lives of our elders. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and

dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

My grandfather's family worked on the land at Makua and the ancestors of family members are closely associated with these lands. They knew the place names, the wind names, the rain names and the stories about this valley. Their children and grandchildren and great grandchildren are restricted from Makua. There is a deep sadness in our community to know that this valley is now a foreign, off limits place.

**From:** Barbara Pope [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 19:48  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Barbara Pope

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Barbara Pope
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kailua, Hawaii 96734
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	These lands are part of our heritage and should support our physical and spiritual health and wellbeing through agriculture, hunting, cultural practice, open space, and conservation. Our great grandparents and grandparents families worked and lived in these these lands and cared for them. Being restricted from access to these lands results in being separated from our connection to the lives of our elders.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and



restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are

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Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL COMMENTS HERE.

My grandfather's family worked on the land at Makua and the ancestors of family members are closely associated with these lands. They knew the place names, the wind names, the rain names and the stories about this valley. Their children and grandchildren and great grandchildren are restricted from Makua. There is a deep sadness in our community to know that this valley is now a foreign, off limits place.

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## Deborah Pope

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**From:** Deborah Pope [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 13:07  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Deborah Pope

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Deborah Pope

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Kailua, Hawaii 96734

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

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## Grant Porter

Please do not renew the leases of military lands on Oahu in 2029 at Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. The public, especially native Hawaiians, deserve to have the land returned to them. The military use of this land is a poor use of land on a small, crowded island. It is a poor use of valuable natural resources and it is disruptive to the ecology and sensitive native environments. Our land, our roads, and our watersheds have suffered long enough. The lands at Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa should be returned to the people of Hawaii when these leases expire in 2029.

## Erin Potter

Hello, my name is Erin and I am a resident of upstate New York. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. This is Native Hawaiian land and should be treated and respected as such. The US military should have never been leased this land to begin with, much less for a single dollar. The leasing of this land to the US military disrespects the Indigenous people who live on and care for this land and whose identities are strongly tied to this land. Please consider Indigenous voices in this decision, not as equal voices but as booming voices that should roar over the others. Because this is their land, their culture, and their home and they deserve to have the most powerful voices in this decision.

Thank you

## Caroline Powers

The land of Oahu that the US military is currently occupying should be given back to native Hawaiians immediately.

## Shelly Preza

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

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From: Shelly Preza  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Shelly Preza  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 17:34:55 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Shelly Preza

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Lāna‘i City, Hawaii 96763

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

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Margaret Primacio

I oppose renewing leases for military training. Along with over tourism we have over militarism. Residents of Hawaii are left out of the resources for low cost housing, recreational spaces, natural resource conservation all at the hands of government leaders who do nothing to sustain and enhance our lives in Hawaii. See the history of criminal stewardship by the military and you'll witness no respect of the land and continued illegal occupation of the them. Time to hele and right the wrong. No more leases. Margaret PrimacioKahuku

**From:** Margaret Primacio  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Strongly Oppose Renewing Leases for Army Training Sites  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 8:10:12 AM  
**Importance:** High

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

I oppose renewing leases for military training. Along with over tourism we have over militarism. Residents of Hawaii are left out of the resources for low cost housing, recreational spaces, natural resource conservation all at the hands of government leaders who do nothing to sustain and enhance our lives in Hawaii. See the history of criminal stewardship by the military and you'll witness no respect of the land and continued illegal occupation of the them.

Time to hele and right the wrong. No more leases.

Margaret Primacio  
Kahuku

Sent from Mail < Caution-<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986> > for Windows 10

O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

Michaela Primacio  


August 26, 2021

Support for O'ahu ATLR at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaiiloa-Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a Kahuku Resident and Native Hawaiian, I am a proud family member of three U.S. VETERAN'S - my grandfather who served in the Vietnam War, my brother who served two tours in Iraq, and my sister who retired from U.S. Air Force.

During one of many "talk story" sessions, as we say in Hawai'i; my papa often would retell how he and his fellow soldiers crashed in a helicopter and survived in Vietnam. *Thanks to his military training that he received at Kahuku Training Area before leaving for Vietnam.* It was one of his proudest moments as he shared the picture with me. He very rarely spoke about the casualties of war and briefly mentioned the loss of a friend looking forward to returning home.

The threat to destroy America, its people, and our freedom is real. Not only on an International level but from within our country as well. For us locals who have family members - a son/or daughter, spouse, friend, brother, sister, ohana period - in the military....where should they go to get trained? If they can do it at home...why not? These lands are a vital component for the men and women in our armed forces who serve, protect, and defend our national security in conjunction with State-owned lands.

Regarding the O'ahu ATLR EIS at **Kahuku Training Area**, I am providing comments on the following for consideration to be included in the draft EIS:

Whereas Kahuku is located in the Ko'olauloa Moku (District);

Whereas Kahuku total land area is 2.3 square miles (1,472 acres) of which Land accounts for 1.0 square mile (640 acres) and Water 1.3 square mile (832 acres);

Whereas Kahuku Training Area consists of approximately 9,480 acres and 1,170 acres of State-owned lands;

Whereas Kahuku and its neighboring communities in the Ko'olauloa Moku (District) are rural, low lying coastal areas prone to flooding, storm surge, tsunami's, hurricanes and/or other natural disasters;

Whereas Kahuku has a total population of 2,960 according to the 2019 American Community Survey with 14.7% of its population under 10 years old and 21.1% are 60 years old or over;

Whereas Kahuku has only "One" hospital, Kahuku Medical Center, serving O'ahu's North Shore;

Whereas Kahuku has "Zero" Emergency Shelters in the event of an emergency evacuation, with the exception of Kahuku Elementary School dependent on approval from authorities;

With that said, global warming has increased natural disasters around the globe and nationally in the U.S. and pose severe impacts to loss of life, property, and economic recovery. Rural and coastal communities are even more susceptible to these impacts in *accessing or receiving* aid during an emergency.

Furthermore, rural and coastal communities like Kahuku have *limited resources, space, and adequate shelter* or access to resources, space, and adequate shelter to accommodate the current population and potential overflows from neighboring communities during an emergency.

In contrast to the 10,650 acres of Federal and State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area and the vulnerability of a natural disaster and its impacts on Kahuku. I am requesting the Army and the State to consider the following:

- Provide Public Access to lands designated as "Safety Zones" in the event of an emergency
- Allocate funding to improve infrastructure, utilities, and facilities for Kahuku to have an Emergency Shelter
- Provide timely and accurate information on any environmental or health & safety issues



- Update and disclose information that is accessible and easy to find for citizens, elderly, and disabled persons
- Address, inform, educate and/or disclose to its citizens any mitigative actions that the Army and/or State has taken in previous, current, and future Environmental Impact Studies

Respectfully,



Michaela Primacio  
Kahuku Resident

cc:

Governor David Ige  
Mayor Rick Blangiardi  
Representative Sean Quinlan  
Senator Gil Riviere  
Council Member Heidi Tsuneyoshi

## Pumehana Puaoi-Perry

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... When I grow old I might want my keiki to cultivate as it's our birth right. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ʻāina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. We need to aloha this aina for generations to come.

From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

Pumehana Puaoi-Perry

USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments

[Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Pumehana Puaoi-Perry

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 20:46:56 PM

Koa Futures

EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

Entry Details

MY NAME IS:

Pumehana Puaoi-Perry

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN:

Waianae, Hawaii 96792

I AM:

A resident of Waiʻanae, Kahuku, or Poamoho  
A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

When I grow old I might want my keiki to cultivate as it's our birth right.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional

duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian

lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease



prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels

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are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

We need to aloha this aina for generations to come.

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I-1420



## Cognito Forms

## Lopaka Purdy

To: Col. Dan Misigoy U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i

Aloha Col. Misigoy,

As a person who loves Hawai'i and her people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākuā, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each. Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered. Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include: 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises. 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies. 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Mahalo for your time and attention, Lopaka Purdy

**From:** [Lopaka Purdy](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No Action Alternative for the Hawai'i State lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaiolo-Poamoho  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:38:09 AM

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To:  
Col. Dan Misigoy  
U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i

Aloha Col. Misigoy,

As a person who loves Hawai'i and her people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaiolo-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

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Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises.

2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies.

3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those

who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Mahalo for your time and attention,  
Lopaka Purdy

## Yvonne Pyle

Hello,

I believe that it is in the best interests of the Native Hawaiians that the Army removes their bases. The state of Hawaii was annexed to the USA against their will and should have the right to at least decide if they would like to have a military presence on their land. It also has a large environmental impact through noise and other pollution; Hawaii is a very important habitat home to lots of biodiversity and ecosystems. Lastly believe that removing the bases will allow the locals to better host tourism, which will eventually better the economy as a whole.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Pyle

## Leslie Pyo

I am against the renewal of the US Army's land lease of Hawaiian land. This land belongs to Native Hawaiians and should be given back to them.

## India Pyzel

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Hawaiians deserve to have the rights to their lands without the government deciding what is and isn't good enough compensation for them. If Hawaiians don't want the military littering and destroying their lands this lease should not be renewed. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. I love below the Kahuku land. My days are filled with hearing machine guns go off and our house shaking from low flying helicopters. Knowing and seeing that the land is being littered. We live in a beautiful place and we are so lucky to be on this land that is not ours. It is way past due to be listening to the native people who have been over looked and displaced year after year.

**From:** India Pyzel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 14:00  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - India Pyzel

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	India Pyzel
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Haleiwa 96712
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	Hawaiians deserve to have the rights to their lands without the government deciding what is and isn't good enough compensation for them. If Hawaiians don't want the military littering and destroying their lands this lease should not be renewed.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized

STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a



comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people".

Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and

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In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

I love below the Kahuku land. My days are filled with hearing machine guns go off and our house shaking from low flying helicopters. Knowing and seeing that the land is being littered. We live in a beautiful place and we are so lucky to be on this land that is not ours. It is

way past due to be listening to the native people who have been over looked and displaced year after year.

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## Cam Quevedo

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire, this land should be immediately restored to the public and especially to the native people.

## Sarah R

My name is Sarah and I live in Texas. I firmly oppose the extension of military leases on Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. The extensions will only harm more of the land's natural resources, demolish the homes of numerous species in the area and disrupt the lives of the people living near these regions. Since 1964 the Army has unjustifiably leased these lands from the state for \$1 each year. When the lease expires in 2029, these territories should be given back to the public and recovered as soon as possible.



## Jay Rachels

The injustices suffered by Native Hawaiians can never be fully reconciled; yet, the U.S. Military now has the opportunity to make great strides forward: to uphold its defense and peacekeeping duties in the Pacific theater whilst returning lands no longer necessary to training or the strategic success of modern military initiatives. It is clear that a new military strategy is needed in the face of greater missile technologies available to possible threats. These strategies and the subsequent battle tactics required leave little need for sites such as those near Makua and Yokohama Beaches in western Oahu. This site should be returned to the state of Hawaii and the people of Hawaii. Furthermore, efforts should be made to see these areas remain protected from development by rent/profit seeking entities. Especially real estate endeavors that do little to restore and preserve Native Hawaiian culture.

Thank you for your diligence and consideration of these comments.

Commented in hopes of a beginning to long awaited restoration.

## Jordan Ragasa

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... the environmental effects of prolonged militarism and occupation is detrimental to the health Hawai'i and future generations of our people. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Jordan Ragasa  
Tuesday, August 31, 2021 22:54  
USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
[Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Jordan Ragasa

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Jordan Ragasa
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	the environmental effects of prolonged militarism and occupation is detrimental to the health Hawai'i and future generations of our people.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua

Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Waiʻanae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ʻāina. The leasing of ʻāina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ʻāina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ʻāina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

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These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including

Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

I want our young people to grow up in a Hawai'i where they are not constantly being woken by the thunderous roars of military aircraft flying overhead. We must raise our keiki in a Hawai'i that does not revolve around warfare and violence.

## Miriam Ragsdale

Hello,

My name is Miriam Ragsdale, and I am from North Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases would allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

Thank you,

Miriam Ragsdale

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**From:** Miriam Ragsdale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 11:40  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Demilitarize Hawaii

Hello,

My name is Miriam Ragsdale, and I am from North Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases would allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

Thank you,

Miriam Ragsdale

Sufia Rai

I, an American citizen, oppose the US army's lease renewal and continued occupation of land on Oahu.

**From:** [Sufia Rai](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 19:25:56 PM

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I, an American citizen, oppose the US army's lease renewal and continued occupation of land on Oahu.

## Emily Rainey

Hello, To whom it may concern, My name is Emily Rainey and I am a resident of North Charleston, South Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā, and any other Hawaii State Land.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely, Emily Rainey.

**From:** [Emily Rainey](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii Lands for Hawaii Natives  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:11:47 AM

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Hello, To whom it may concern, My name is Emily Rainey and I am a resident of North Charleston, South Carolina. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā, and any other Hawaii State Land.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely, Emily Rainey.

## Anna Rambow

Hello,

My name is Anna Rambow and I am writing to express my opposition to the extension of military leasing land on Makua, Kahuka, and Wahiawa in Hawaii. The extension of allowing this land to be used by the military is damaging to wildlife and native habitats. It is also disrupting the lives of the local community.

The Army has been leasing this land for \$1 a year since 1964 and when the lease is up in 2029 this should not be allowed to continue any longer. It should be immediately given back to the community for growth instead of continual damage.

Sincerely, a concerned citizen.

-Anna Rambow

**From:** [Anna Knowles](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii land leasing  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:48:51 AM

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Hello,

My name is Anna Rambow and I am writing to express my opposition to the extension of military leasing land on Makua, Kahuka, and Wahiawa in Hawaii. The extension of allowing this land to be used by the military is damaging to wildlife and native habitats. It is also disrupting the lives of the local community.

The Army has been leasing this land for \$1 a year since 1964 and when the lease is up in 2029 this should not be allowed to continue any longer. It should be immediately given back to the community for growth instead of continual damage.

Sincerely, a concerned citizen.

-Anna Rambow

## Laura Ramirez

As a resident of Hawai'i and a steward of this land, I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on Mākua, Kuhuku, and Wahiawā. Any extension of these leases will result in more damage to the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals that have suffered too much already. The pollution and disruption of life that the local community has been forced to endure must come to an end. These natural resources are worth much more than the unethical amount of \$1 which amounts to theft. It is no longer 1964 and this kind of corruption can no longer be hidden and pushed through in backroom deals. These lands have been wrongfully leased to the Army and must be immediately restored to the public when the leases expire in 2029.



## Ikaika Ramones

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... These lands serve a greater public good with potentials for agriculture, housing, conservation, cultural practice, and watershed preservation. Re-leasing of lands entails continued damage (and loss of cultural access) to archaeological sites and biocultural resources. Any EIS must survey 1) existing damage done to the entirety of these parcels; 2) fully disclose Army compliance to existing monitoring obligations; and 3) survey sites of historical importance by a Hawaiian archaeology consultant. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan;

military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. Please add any personal comments here. Military training exacerbates C/PTSD associated with my previous experiences (and those of many others in the

community) of state violence. The noise of exercises, equipment, and transportation; the sight of these infrastructures and personnel; and the knowledge of their damage to the landscape and communities are all factors that constitute a damage to members of the public.

**From:** Ikaika Ramones  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Ikaika Ramones  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 12:42:33 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Ikaika Ramones

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

I AM: A resident of O'ahu  
A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHO BECAUSE...

These lands serve a greater public good with potentials for agriculture, housing, conservation, cultural practice, and watershed preservation. Re-leasing of lands entails continued damage (and loss of cultural access) to archaeological sites and biocultural resources. Any EIS must survey 1) existing damage done to the entirety of these parcels; 2) fully disclose Army compliance to existing monitoring obligations; and 3) survey sites of historical importance by a Hawaiian archaeology consultant.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands

of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that

would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-



economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

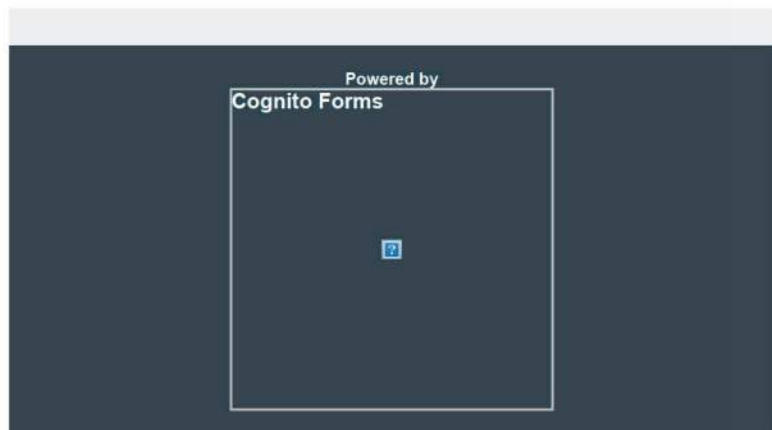
In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources

that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Military training exacerbates C/PTSD associated with my previous experiences (and those of many others in the community) of state violence. The noise of exercises, equipment, and transportation; the sight of these infrastructures and personnel; and the knowledge of their damage to the landscape and communities are all factors that constitute a damage to members of the public.



## Ikaika Ramones

My name is Ikaika Ramones. I'm a social anthropologist, who obtained my Ph.D. at New York University and my bachelor's in anthropology from Harvard University. I'm kanakamaoli from Kalihi Valley. My research, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, includes how land use decisions directly impact us Native Hawaiians, and my data indicate that any EIS must take into account how these leases reproduce environmental racism and the dispossession of an indigenous people from their lands. My data indicate that U.S. military use of Hawaiian lands, the environmental and cultural damage done, is detrimental to a specific group of people, which contravenes the U.S. government's own Civil Rights Act, Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the 1993 Clinton Apology Resolution. I also want to clarify that the bifurcation of the environmental and cultural is an issue here. As precedent has shown in regard to indigenous people, that Hawaiian relations to land are at once cultural and environmental as a totality. That being so, any environmental damage is a cultural, health outcome, economic, and psychological damage. Any EIS must include biocultural impacts, especially with regard to Native Hawaiians. I also urge that a Hawaiian archaeological company, Nohopapa, is contracted to perform cultural impact assessment rather than other firms that have a demonstrated lack of cultural literacy and ethical conduct. Regardless of what mitigation is in place, the simple fact of the wanton use of Hawaiian lands represents a discriminant impact on Native Hawaiians. Any perfunctory or performative concessions would not address the systemic issue. The path most aligned with the state's own self-articulated institutional codes would be an EIS that addresses biocultural impacts amounting to an ejection of these leases. And to my lahui and the occupying U.S. military, this will be the next Kaho'olawe, this will be the next Mauna Kea, but bigger and stronger. Mahalo.

## Dylan Ramos

Aloha,

Whether you love, hate, support, and/or criticize the U.S. military, it is an incontrovertible fact that American militarism has directly and indirectly contributed to generations of environmental degradation. While there are laudable efforts by the military to support local ecosystems, the benefits simply do not outweigh the costs. This is particularly true in Hawai'i, where overlaying socio-political/cultural/historical factors link the very existence of so many military installations to the marginalization of Indigenous wisdom with respect to caring for the environment.

With the above in mind, I hereby express my solidarity with the many Native Hawaiians advocating for the no action alternative to end Army training land retention at the sites in question, or, short of that, the alternative option of retaining only bare-minimum training capacity.

Thank you,  
Dylan Ramos

## Sierra Ramos

This project is wrong and illegal ! Give the natives their land back ! The US occupied hawaii illegally this entire time and everyone is sick of it. Give natives their land back!

## Chris Raynes

Hello, I am deeply concerned about the army's use of this land. Please stop your destruction of the land and give the land back to the indigenous people.

I-1465

## Rachel Reamsbottom

Native Hawaiians have been speaking out to say they never wanted or needed U.S. military occupation, and they are asking for their fellow Americans to help get the army out so they can finally have their land back. The U.S. army takes advantage of their own citizens by renting thousands of acres of Hawaiian land for \$1/year for training purposes. Native Hawaiians are saying they hear explosions and gunshots from their bed. The army is destroying Hawaiian land and wildlife. The army is disrupting the lives of Hawaiians all over the island. And for \$1/year the army is exploiting that which they do not own. Hawaiians and mainland Americans alike want the army out of Hawaii once and for all.

Sincerely,  
A concerned citizen

I-1466

## Makana Reeves

As someone born and raised in Hawai'i, I am writing to recommend the US Army vacate Hawai'i lands at the natural termination of the existing lease. I am against a lease renewal on any terms whatsoever. The cultural, environmental, social and economic impacts are too great a cost to Hawai'i and its people.  
Makana Reeves

**From:** [Makana](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] End Army leases in Hawai'i  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 11:19:49 AM

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As someone born and raised in Hawai'i, I am writing to recommend the US Army vacate Hawai'i lands at the natural termination of the existing lease. I am against a lease renewal on any terms whatsoever. The cultural, environmental, social and economic impacts are too great a cost to Hawai'i and its people.

Makana Reeves



## Michael Reimer

Comments on the proposed lease extension of military lands in Hawaii used for training exercises  
Submitted by: Michael Reimer, Ph.D. XXXXXXXX@XXX.XXX August 22, 2021  
Statements from U.S. Army personnel to the press concerning the lease extension for PTA seem to indicate that the extension request is a slam dunk, a done deal, for the U.S. Army. That is truly unfortunate as now any full Environmental Impact Statement that should be prepared would undoubtedly be a gloss-over and therefore an inferior and biased document.

There is a claim that this is just a real estate transaction and not an operations change, but that is false. As it stands, the lease expiration is the impending state of affairs. Renewal of the lease would induce the change from the otherwise scheduled quiescent state enacted when the lease expires. Thus, a full Environmental Impact Statement is required for any lease negotiation. It must be recognized that this land that has been subject to extensive pollution and destruction can no longer be used for any natural purpose without extensive decontamination, detoxification, and restoration, if that is even possible. The clear evidence is that the U.S. military abrogates any and all responsibility beyond token measures for cleanup. Simply review the actions with Kaho'olawe. There is an unfortunate corollary to this failure for cleanup, a required covenant of the current lease but ignored nearly entirely by the U.S. Army showing the lack of true stewardship of the land, a position for which it deceptively claims to partake. How ironic that one of the options the U.S. Army is considering is to trade some of its training areas in Hawaii for new lands in the state; one can posit that the land it wishes to trade is now so destroyed and contaminated that it is no longer useful even to the military for training purposes. Who has the responsibility for this land restoration? Clearly, this is a mission flouted by the U.S. Military. It falls, therefore, to the State and Counties. Consequently, the U.S. Military minimally must place funds in escrow, a bonded account, for this cleanup. This activity and the methods used for mitigation and restoration must be a component of an Environmental Impact Statement and any subsequent lease agreement. There is a basis for determining these costs. That can be derived from the trite effort made by the military to clean up Kaho'olawe. Further, a few years ago, it provided the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission an estimate for cleaning up the depleted uranium at PTA. That estimate was in the order of \$60 million but no clean-up effort was ever initiated. There was only some limited sequestration of possible affected areas and a contrived monitoring program designed not to find any transport of depleted uranium. Another primary consideration is whether or not the military needs major land holdings in Hawaii to conduct its training exercises. It does not. A very similar siting equivalent to PTA is Fort Carson, Colorado. It has the mountainous terrain, the equivalent altitude and, in many respects, a superior climate for all-weather training challenges. Fort Carson (137,000 acres) is approximately the same size as PTA (133,000 acres) but has the addition nearby of about 235,000 acres called Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site used for Fort Carson training. Fort Carson is also used for inter-Branch training as PTA provides. For the last 20 years or so, the military used the claim that PTA was needed for specific training in Afghanistan or other places in the Middle East. As those theaters now have significantly less U.S. military presence, Fort Carson would be an enhanced substitute for that equivalent training. It would prevent the continuing destruction of one of the few places on this planet that should be completely observed as a heritage site for pristine environmental and cultural preservation. The Environmental Impact Statement or any lease agreement must contain the acknowledgement that a fair price should be paid for any use of the lands for military purposes. Knowing that the military will not restore the land, the cost to the military must include funds held in reserve for such cleanup and, in fact, a thorough cleanup should

be conducted: first, for what is already ravaged, and second, after every maneuver activity. In a previous environmental impact statement, the military said that it contributes \$12 billion yearly to the economy of Hawaii. What was not included was the cost of the taking that the military consumes. A fair amount for the use of Big Island lands would be on the order of \$600 million a year, inflation adjusted, or just about the yearly amount of the County budget. That is just 5 percent of the claimed \$12 billion and but a mere fraction of a percent of the yearly appropriation for military spending. Those funds should be spent after every and all training actions to clean up the land and then adjusted as needed to cover the entire clean-up cost. As the military refuses such cleanup, it befalls the County and it should be paid for by the military. There has been a recent proposal to have the entire Island classified as a Sentinel Landscape. This seems to imply that a buffer area around the training sites would be created to prevent urbanization. This is, of course, a further taking of land by the military. A comment was that the land would be used for agriculture or grazing but it is common knowledge that adjacent lands are also contaminated by transport of toxic materials from actual training impact sites. Any use of the land pretending to be suitable for agricultural activities would be dangerous and be a clear and present health risk to anyone working those lands or consuming products from those lands. The face of war has changed and no one is more acutely aware of this than the U.S. military. Of all the military engagements involving U.S. troops after World War II, none has been more successful than the involvement of the military in the Berlin Airlift. This was a humanitarian effort and not one of destruction and obliteration. In today's world, the national security provided by our military must involve more than simply honing a killing machine through destruction of the land and placing citizens in harm's way. Is it not time for any military presence in Hawaii to be a show of peace and not destruction? In sum, the leases should not be renewed. As a demonstration of good faith and recognizing the needs of the 21st century, the Army should initiate the termination of the lease and begin cleanup of the present sites to validate its otherwise specious claim that it is a good steward of the land. Let it be that the Big Island becomes a demonstration of military humanitarian efforts and not one of destruction of the 'aina and cultural heritage. No leases need to be renewed to commence this new beginning.

**From:** Michael Reimer  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Comments on the proposed lease extension of military lands in Hawaii  
**Date:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 6:10:28 AM

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**Comments on the proposed lease extension of military lands in Hawaii used for training exercises**

Submitted by:

Michael Reimer, Ph.D.  
GeoMike5@att.net < Caution-mailto:GeoMike5@att.net >  
August 22, 2021

Statements from U.S. Army personnel to the press concerning the lease extension for PTA seem to indicate that the extension request is a slam dunk, a done deal, for the U.S. Army. That is truly unfortunate as now any full Environmental Impact Statement that should be prepared would undoubtedly be a gloss-over and therefore an inferior and biased document.

There is a claim that this is just a real estate transaction and not an operations change, but that is false. As it stands, the lease expiration is the impending state of affairs. Renewal of the lease would induce the change from the otherwise scheduled quiescent state enacted when the lease expires. Thus, a full Environmental Impact Statement is required for any lease negotiation.

It must be recognized that this land that has been subject to extensive pollution and destruction can no longer be used for any natural purpose without extensive decontamination, detoxification, and restoration, if that is even possible. The clear evidence is that the U.S. military abrogates any and all responsibility beyond token measures for cleanup. Simply review the actions with Kaho'olawe. There is an unfortunate corollary to this failure for cleanup, a required covenant of the current lease but ignored nearly entirely by the U.S. Army showing the lack of true stewardship of the land, a position for which it deceptively claims to partake. How ironic that one of the options the U.S. Army is considering is to trade some of its training areas in Hawaii for new lands in the state; one can posit that the land it wishes to trade is now so destroyed and contaminated that it is no longer useful even to the military for training purposes.

Who has the responsibility for this land restoration? Clearly, this is a mission flouted by the U.S. Military. It falls, therefore, to the State and Counties. Consequently, the U.S. Military minimally must place funds in escrow, a bonded account, for this cleanup. This activity and the methods used for mitigation and restoration must be a component of an Environmental Impact Statement and any subsequent lease agreement. There is a basis for determining these costs. That can be derived from the trite effort made by the military to clean up Kaho'olawe. Further, a few years ago, it provided the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission an estimate for cleaning up the depleted uranium at PTA. That estimate was in the order of \$60 million but no clean-up effort was ever initiated. There was only some limited sequestration of possible affected areas and a contrived monitoring program designed not to find any transport of depleted uranium.

Another primary consideration is whether or not the military needs major land holdings in Hawaii to conduct its training exercises. It does not. A very similar site equivalent to PTA is Fort Carson, Colorado. It has the mountainous terrain, the equivalent altitude and, in many respects, a superior

climate for all-weather training challenges. Fort Carson (137,000 acres) is approximately the same size as PTA (133,000 acres) but has the addition nearby of about 235,000 acres called Pilon Canyon Maneuver Site used for Fort Carson training. Fort Carson is also used for inter-Branch training as PTA provides.

For the last 20 years or so, the military used the claim that PTA was needed for specific training in Afghanistan or other places in the Middle East. As those theaters now have significantly less U.S. military presence, Fort Carson would be an enhanced substitute for that equivalent training. It would prevent the continuing destruction of one of the few places on this planet that should be completely observed as a heritage site for pristine environmental and cultural preservation.

The Environmental Impact Statement or any lease agreement must contain the acknowledgement that a fair price should be paid for any use of the lands for military purposes. Knowing that the military will not restore the land, the cost to the military must include funds held in reserve for such cleanup and, in fact, a thorough cleanup should be conducted: first, for what is already ravaged, and second, after every maneuver activity. In a previous environmental impact statement, the military said that it contributes \$12 billion yearly to the economy of Hawaii. What was not included was the cost of the taking that the military consumes. A fair amount for the use of Big Island lands would be on the order of \$600 million a year, inflation adjusted, or just about the yearly amount of the County budget. That is just 5 percent of the claimed \$12 billion and but a mere fraction of a percent of the yearly appropriation for military spending. Those funds should be spent after every and all training actions to clean up the land and then adjusted as needed to cover the entire clean-up cost. As the military refuses such cleanup, it befalls the County and it should be paid for by the military.

There has been a recent proposal to have the entire Island classified as a Sentinel Landscape. This seems to imply that a buffer area around the training sites would be created to prevent urbanization. This is, of course, a further taking of land by the military. A comment was that the land would be used for agriculture or grazing but it is common knowledge that adjacent lands are also contaminated by transport of toxic materials from actual training impact sites. Any use of the land pretending to be suitable for agricultural activities would be dangerous and be a clear and present health risk to anyone working those lands or consuming products from those lands.

The face of war has changed and no one is more acutely aware of this than the U.S. military. Of all the military engagements involving U.S. troops after World War II, none has been more successful than the involvement of the military in the Berlin Airlift. This was a humanitarian effort and not one of destruction and obliteration. In today's world, the national security provided by our military must involve more than simply honing a killing machine through destruction of the land and placing citizens in harm's way. Is it not time for any military presence in Hawaii to be a show of peace and not destruction?

In sum, the lease should not be renewed. As a demonstration of good faith and recognizing the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Army should initiate the termination of the lease and begin cleanup of the present sites to validate its otherwise specious claim that it is a good steward of the land. Let it be that the Big Island becomes a demonstration of military humanitarian efforts and not one of destruction of the 'aina and cultural heritage. No leases need to be renewed to commence this new beginning.

To: Oahu ATLR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444,  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

From: Michael Reimer, Ph.D. 

Date: August 22, 2021

Re: Comments on the proposed lease extension of military lands in Hawaii used for training exercises

Enclosed are comments on the proposed lease extension of military lands in Hawaii used for training exercises.

Thank you for your attention.

I-1473

Oahu ATLR EIS Comments, P.O. Box 3444, Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

**Comments on the proposed lease extension of military lands in Hawaii used for training exercises**

Submitted by:

Michael Reimer, Ph.D.

August 22, 2021

Statements from U.S. Army personnel to the press concerning the lease extension for PTA seem to indicate that the extension request is a slam-dunk, a done deal, for the U.S. Army. That is truly unfortunate as now any full Environmental Impact Statement that should be prepared would undoubtedly be a gloss-over and therefore an inferior and biased document.

There is a claim that this is just a real estate transaction and not an operations change, but that is false. As it stands, the lease expiration is the impending state of affairs. Renewal of the lease would induce the change from the otherwise scheduled quiescent state enacted when the lease expires. Thus, a full Environmental Impact Statement is required for any lease negotiation.

It must be recognized that this land that has been subject to extensive pollution and destruction can no longer be used for any natural purpose without extensive decontamination, detoxification, and restoration, if that is even possible. The clear evidence is that the U.S. military abrogates any and all responsibility beyond token measures for cleanup. Simply review the actions with Kaho'olawe. There is an unfortunate corollary to this failure for cleanup, a required covenant of the current lease but ignored nearly entirely by the U.S. Army showing the lack of true stewardship of the land, a position for which it deceptively claims to partake. How ironic that one of the options the U.S. Army is considering is to trade some its training areas in Hawaii for new lands in the state; one can posit that the land it wishes to trade is now so destroyed and contaminated that it is no longer useful even to the military for training purposes.

Who has the responsibility for this land restoration? Clearly, this is a mission flouted by the U.S. Military. It falls, therefore, to the State and Counties. Consequently, the U.S. Military minimally must place funds in escrow, a bonded account, for this cleanup. This activity and the methods used for mitigation and restoration must be a component of an Environmental Impact Statement and any subsequent lease agreement. There is a basis for determining these costs. That can be derived from the trite effort made by the military to clean up Kaho'olawe. Further, a few years ago, it provided the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission an estimate for cleaning up the depleted uranium at PTA. That estimate was in the order of \$60 million but no clean-up effort was ever initiated. There was only some limited sequestration of possible affected areas and a contrived monitoring program designed not to find any transport of depleted uranium.

I-1474

Another primary consideration is whether or not the military needs major land holdings in Hawaii to conduct its training exercises. It does not. A very similar siting equivalent to PTA is Fort Carson, Colorado. It has the mountainous terrain, the equivalent altitude and, in many respects, a superior climate for all-weather training challenges. Fort Carson (137,000 acres) is approximately the same size as PTA (133,000 acres) but has the addition nearby of about 235,000 acres called Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site used for Fort Carson training. Fort Carson is also used for inter-Branch training as PTA provides.

For the last 20 years or so, the military used the claim that PTA was needed for specific training in Afghanistan or other places in the Middle East. As those theaters now have significantly less U.S. military presence, Fort Carson would be an enhanced substitute for that equivalent training. It would prevent the continuing destruction of one of the few places on this planet that should be completely observed as a heritage site for pristine environmental and cultural preservation.

The Environmental Impact Statement or any lease agreement must contain the acknowledgement that a fair price should be paid for any use of the lands for military purposes. Knowing that the military will not restore the land, the cost to the military must include funds held in reserve for such cleanup and, in fact, a thorough cleanup should be conducted: first, for what is already ravaged, and second, after every maneuver activity. In a previous environmental impact statement, the military said that it contributes \$12 billion yearly to the economy of Hawaii. What was not included was the cost of the taking that the military consumes. A fair amount for the use of Big Island lands would be on the order of \$600 million a year, inflation adjusted, or just about the yearly amount of the County budget. That is just 5 percent of the claimed \$12 billion and but a mere fraction of a percent of the yearly appropriation for military spending. Those funds should be spent after every and all training actions to clean up the land and then adjusted as needed to cover the entire clean-up cost. As the military refuses such cleanup, it befalls the County and it should be paid for by the military.

There has been a recent proposal to have the entire Island classified as a Sentinel Landscape. This seems to imply that a buffer area around the training sites would be created to prevent urbanization. This is, of course, a further taking of land by the military. A comment was that the land would be used for agriculture or grazing but it is common knowledge that adjacent lands are also contaminated by transport of toxic materials from actual training impact sites. Any use of the land pretending to be suitable for agricultural activities would be dangerous and be a clear and present health risk to anyone working those lands or consuming products from those lands.

The face of war has changed and no one is more acutely aware of this than the U.S. military. Of all the military engagements involving U.S. troops after World War II, none has been more successful than the involvement of the military in the Berlin Airlift. This was a humanitarian effort and not one of destruction and obliteration. In today's world, the national security provided by our military must involve more than simply honing a

killing machine through destruction of the land and placing citizens in harm's way. Is it not time for any military presence in Hawaii to be a show of peace and not destruction?

In sum, the leases should not be renewed. As a demonstration of good faith and recognizing the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Army should initiate the termination of the lease and begin cleanup of the present sites to validate its otherwise specious claim that it is a good steward of the land. Let it be that the Big Island becomes a demonstration of military humanitarian efforts and not one of destruction of the 'aina and cultural heritage. No leases need to be renewed to commence this new beginning.

## Alondra Reyes

Aloha, My name is Alondra Reyes and I am a resident of Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Wahiawā.  
Extending these leases would allow the military to continue damaging nature resources in these areas. Not to mention it will destroy natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community  
The Army had wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 a year since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

**From:** Alondra Reyes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:08  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lease renewal in Hawaii

Aloha,  
My name is Alondra Reyes and I am a resident of Texas. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Wahiawā.

Extending these leases would allow the military to continue damaging nature resources in these areas. Not to mention it will destroy natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community

The Army had wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 a year since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Jacky Reynaga

My name is Jacky and I am a resident of California. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Natibe Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Marie Richards

Good morning,

I am writing in regards to the U.S. military occupation of Hawaii. My name is Marie Richards and I am a resident of Maine. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these lands will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The U.S. Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the local residents of Hawaii.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Marie E. Richards  
8th Grade ELA Teacher  
MSAD #59  
Madison School District  
B.A. English  
UMF Alumna  
M.A. Creative Writing and English  
SNHU Alumna

**From:** Marie Richards [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:04  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii Occupation

Good morning,

I am writing in regards to the U.S. military occupation of Hawaii. My name is Marie Richards and I am a resident of Maine. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these lands will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The U.S. Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the local residents of Hawaii.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Marie E. Richards  
8th Grade ELA Teacher  
MSAD #59  
Madison School District  
B.A. English  
UMF Alumna  
M.A. Creative Writing and English  
SNHU Alumna

## Diana Richardson

As a former resident of both Oahu and Kaua'i for several years, I am writing to say, as a non-Hawaiian, that I firmly oppose the releasing of Hawaiian lands to the U.S. Government for military--or any other use. Hawaiian lands for Hawaiian people!... who have long been the resilient victims of theft by the U.S. government. I urge you to refuse to re-lease the lands currently held by U.S. government for military uses. Sincerely, Diana Richardson [REDACTED]

**From:** [Diana Richardson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Cc:** [Dave Richardson](#); [Milla Richardson](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do Not Renew Lease of Hawaiian lands to U.S. Military  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 13:45:36 PM

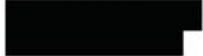
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As a former resident of both Oahu and Kaua'i for several years, I am writing to say, as a non-Hawaiian, that I firmly oppose the releasing of Hawaiian lands to the U.S. Government for military--or any other use.

Hawaiian lands for Hawaiian people!... who have long been the resilient victims of theft by the U.S. government.

I urge you to refuse to re-lease the lands currently held by U.S. government for military uses.

Sincerely,  
Diana Richardson



## Kahu Ricky

Yes, this is Kahu Ricky, I'd like to see Makua closed. Pohakuloa and other training areas, we need to work on a treaty. We have the leaps and bounds alone do title for all mineral rights, land air and sea 12 miles. We need to create a treaty with United States government because the trust that we were had a relationship with is now over. We need to look at a local title bonafide land ownership of mineral rights land, air and sea minerals. These minerals need to be in a treaty this Treaty needs to be discussed with the United States Army General down at West lock Pearl Harbor. This Treaty needs to be discussed between the families with the load your title only, not the state not OHA and not DHHL which are agents of the state. That would be not quasi authorization not bonafide we need to get bonafide paperwork ownership contracts and treaties. These treaties need to be bonafide with the proper authority figures which would be United States military and the indigenous people. Matthew Kahoopili. That discussion needs to be discussed. And we need to start talking about jurisdiction, jurisdiction of the United States government here in Hawaii. And the relationship to the indigenous people of the people of the islands and archipelago not native Hawaiians not a quasi term from the United States government or state agents. These agents are only manager agents, they do not have any bonafide ownership or authority that needs to be discussed. You cannot be signing contracts with quasi people, managers, like the State agents which don't have the proper authority or jurisdiction anything other than that would be falsified. Would be false or fraudulent. We need to be looking at again. Jurisdiction. A treaty with the United States government and in that Treaty, we could discuss the land rights and land usages. We do need training here, but we need to do training that would be appropriate and fit into the people here. The training needs to be something that fits it cannot be something against the people or that that creates a safety hazard or a health hazard for the people. Or something that creates conflict with the culture or heritage of the people of the land title, land usages, land mineral rights. those mineral rights are protected. International law protects those indigenous people and the mineral rights. And the right to those mineral rights. Anything other than that would be a war crime or genocide of a culture and people. Any war crimes that unites these create here will be tested to and will be dealt with. That's war crimes will be dealt with in the world International law in the court system. Anybody who interferes with international or interferes with indigenous people and there's a religious police and the land use beliefs on their rightful Will be prosecuted. You can be extradited and things can be confiscated all equipment on land all equipment on land that's not that own the military than that on land. The state of Hawaii does not own land can be confiscated. And again, that can be extradited. So people can be confiscated like again, people can be prosecuted for interfering. No matter who you are, United States government, state governors, State people, Attorney General's they can be prosecuted for interfering with another people. You folks going to have to produce your bona fide Land Title. The state and the Attorney General is going to have to produce a bonafide Land Title of mineral rights and authorization. Those authorizations can only be done by the 10 families. From the 1842 Land Commission award. 1842 Land Commission award is the only people that have the authority for all and mineral right. Other than that, everything else will be falsified fraudulent. This will be investigated. Worst case scenario, they will be in the court system. And you folks going to have to provide"



## Kady Riggan

The best thing for the environment of this land is to give at least a portion of it back to the native people of Oahu. The US Military does not care about the well being of this land and the continued training on it will do more harm than they have already caused.

I-1485

## Catherine Ritti

I do not support Army training land retention on Oahu, especially at the Makua site. These are supposed to be public lands and any revenue made should be "for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians." However, the state is charging \$1 for military use of these lands and has continued to manage these lands recklessly at the expense of the environment and the Hawaiian community. These lands were stolen and should be rightfully returned to be stewarded by the Native Hawaiian community.

I-1486

## Juanita Rivas

The land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Andy Rivers

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It is native lands, stolen land I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ʻāina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: [Andy Rivers](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Andy Rivers  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:47:48 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Andy Rivers
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	It is native lands, stolen land
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawaiʻi has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawaiʻi courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama ʻāina. The leasing of ʻāina for

\$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

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of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

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US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands



from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through

I-1493

mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

I-1494

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## Robert Robello

I'm writing in response to Ann Wright's letter in this morning's *Star Advertiser*, "Military should return Hawaii lands." I recognize the need for military readiness and a strong military presence in Hawaii, a state with an important strategic position in the Pacific. The military significance of Pearl Harbor was the main reason Hawaii was annexed, and that significance would seem to be as important today as ever, with China, Russia and North Korea as Pacific Rim adversaries. That said, with only 6,400 square miles of land mass, and a population over 1.4 million, Hawaii is one of the most densely populated states in the country, with a steadily increasing population. I think it is time for the U.S. military to consider moving training areas from Hawaii to other states with greater land area and less population density, such as California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona. The Pentagon has over six years to find suitable training grounds, so now is the time to start looking.

Respectfully,  
Bob RobelloHawaii Resident

**From:** [Robert Robello](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military Lands in Hawaii  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 15:06:18 PM

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I'm writing in response to Ann Wright's letter in this morning's *Star Advertiser*, "Military should return Hawaii lands." I recognize the need for military readiness and a strong military presence in Hawaii, a state with an important strategic position in the Pacific. The military significance of Pearl Harbor was the main reason Hawaii was annexed, and that significance would seem to be as important today as ever, with China, Russia and North Korea as Pacific Rim adversaries. That said, with only 6,400 square miles of land mass, and a population over 1.4 million, Hawaii is one of the most densely populated states in the country, with a steadily increasing population. I think it is time for the U.S. military to consider moving training areas from Hawaii to other states with greater land area and less population density, such as California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona. The Pentagon has over six years to find suitable training grounds, so now is the time to start looking.

Respectfully,

Bob Robello  
Hawaii Resident

## Willow Roberts

"Hello this is Willow Roberts from Naperville, Illinois, and I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. Sorry for my pronunciation, but an extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. It will destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and it will continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964 and when the leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you. Goodbye. "

## Mark Robinson

I have lived at Sunset Beach for several decades. I understand the need for military training. I do think that the Army should be more sensitive to the disruption that flying their aircraft over residential areas late at night causes. Many times I have observed that their maneuvers involved flying low in the same pattern repeatedly crossing over the residential neighborhood for several hours in the middle of the night.

I would suggest that flight rules need to be adopted to prevent that from happening going forward. At the very least a minimum altitude of 4,000ft for aircraft flying over residential homes should be adopted.

## Darlene Rodrigues

Hi. My name is Darlene Rodrigues, and I live here in Mililani. And I say no more leases to the U.S. military in Hawaii, and also such as Guam, Okinawa, and Jeju, just to name a few.

I come speaking as a gold star family member. My cousin was killed in action in Iraq serving in the U.S. Army. She graduated from Leilehua, so I speak with an understanding of what the Army does and also some aloha for people in the Army, because I have many family members who serve.

But I grew up in Wahiawa and Mililani, and I live here in Mililani now, and I realized growing up that before, the Army was just the neighbor that lived behind the fence. You know, there was access to things like Honeycomb Crunch on the military base at the commissary, something that we saw commercials for that we had a yearning for but couldn't get access to. We didn't have a pass to go on base.

So I grew up thinking the military had something that I coveted, that the Army would give us a way out of our plantation existence. And many of my family joined the military.

But in high school, I learned about Kaho'olawe, and I found out about the desecration of the island by treating it as a target practice. And then I learned about the U.S. military and how it was tied to an illegal overthrow. And suddenly, the neighbor behind the fence became an uninvited guest. And then now as an adult living in the home, my home in Mililani, and hearing the bombing practice at night or driving past the convoys on the freeway, and seeing that the convoys that used to be green are now the color of sand, and I learn about the large areas of land controlled and used by the U.S. military, such as Makua Valley.

And then I realized that Kaho'olawe was not just an island far away. They're tied to the land and place that I live now. And the uninvited guest behind the fence is an invader which has taken up land and the people that I lost.

No more U.S. military bases anywhere and leases for this reason, not just for the million other reasons that were just given, rightly so, by kanaka maoli and what has happened to their -- to their kingdom and their people.

We need to stop doing this to our own people and to other people elsewhere. No one deserves this. I really hope that you work yourself out of a job, Colonel. I really do. Because this planet doesn't need it, and we need more people to get us out of just what's going on in terms of climate, what's going on in the climate.

So there's no -- no ill will, other than knowing that there are different things that we must work at.

And finding out today that we might be in a place where we can get out of, we need to put our resources there, and not in taking war from other places to target practice or any of those things.

So thank you. Daghang salamat. No. No to these leases. Not for a dollar, not for five trillion, million dollars. No. The answer is no. Thank you.

## Kaylin Rogers

Please do not renew the military's lease on the island of Oahu. This takes lands away from native Hawaiians and damages the island's ecosystems. The land should be returned to native Hawaiians and military occupation should cease immediately.



Tara Rojas

This is my written testimony exactly how I sent it to Gil Tam, one of the two Hawai'i based appointed Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) which also serves as my written testimony to you, the Army, directly. -----Online EIS Scoping Testimonies 8/10/21 & 8/11/21 re: Army Lease in Hawai'i Expiring 2029 Aloha e Gil,Mahalo for fulfilling your duty by starting to review the videos and stating to finish them in their entirety as well as to 'listen closely', much appreciated. The community gave their heart and soul, and in several instances, generationally. 100% of Community of Hawai'i says NO. The two nights of testimonies were 100% Option 4, No Action = No Lease Extensions. I would like to share this mana'o: "For Kānaka Maoli (and many of our indigenous relatives) a sense of place is of paramount importance to our way of being. We acknowledge that we do not belong in certain places. That we are also visitors in certain spaces. That when we ask for permission to enter a place sometimes the answer is No. Uncultured colonizers do not respect this epistemology and will serve their selfish desires despite Lack Of Consent. Sound familiar?" ~KanakaAutonomy Will the Army take a resounding "NO" for an answer? Or will the Army continue to push through as stated by the Secretary of the Army in this article\* to "find a way to renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns"? [\*article: Caution-https://www.stripes.com/branches/army/2021-08-10/army-secretary-christine-wormuth-hawaii-training-grounds-2514694.html ] Again, it is clearly recorded (Caution-https://www.youtube.com/usaghawaii/live) the two nights of testimonies by Community were 100% Option 4, No Action = No Lease Extensions. ABSOLUTE NO "way to renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns" = NO. NO is NO. In your volunteer position as an officially appointed CASA liaison, are you able to place aside your personal military: service, involvement, support, mindset in order to effectively and truly make known to the Army/Secretary of the Army the community voices and decision? No Lease Extensions. The community wants the Army to use these 8 years, instead of an EIS, to clean up the 'Āina and leave in 2029. The community has spoken and offered to HELP clean up. The Hawai'i Supreme Court unanimous decision 5-0 also confirms the Army's need to clean up in this article\*: "High court rules state breached trust duties at Pohakuloa Training Area". [\*article: Caution-https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2019/08/23/hawaii-news/high-court-rules-state-breached-trust-duties-at-pohakuloa-training-area/] The presentation stated the Environmental Topics to be analyzed in the EIS are mute as the Army violated and continues to violate in complete disregard each one of them...to the detriment of the community, areas where they are located, the entire islands of Hawai'i. Thus, please relay to the Secretary of the Army, Christine Wormuth, that the community wants the Army to stop with this EIS and to change it to an "8-YEAR CLEAN UP & RESTORATION PLAN" in order to leave promptly upon Lease Expiration in 2029. 2021-2029 = 8-YEAR CLEAN UP & RESTORATION PLAN. Please hold the Army accountable to its own standards and seven values (loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage) as mentioned in the article\*\*\* which states that the seven values "are our baseline, our foundation, and our core. The moral and ethical tenets of the Army Values characterize the Army culture and describe the ethical standards expected of all Soldiers". Also uphold the Army themselves as an entity as \*\*\*the Army must continue to adhere to these Army Values" - in this specific case, to the Hawai'i Community and to Hawai'i itself upon leaving (the illegally stolen and occupied lands they are living in, training in, destroying, and contaminating) at the end of Expiration of Lease (\$1 for 65 years) in 2029. [\*\*\*article: Caution-https://www.army.mil/article/49405/army\_values ] From the Army's website\*\*\*\* in their own words, which they need to adhere to, can you please relay to them through Christine Wormuth what they say about: "Many people know what the words Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage mean. But how often do you see someone actually live up to them? Soldiers learn these values in detail during Basic Combat Training (BCT), from then on they live them every day in everything they do — whether they're on the job or off. In short, the Seven Core Army Values listed below are what being a Soldier is all about." and specifically in regards to how the entire EIS - proven by the Hawai'i Supreme Court's decision regarding the Army's breached trust duties - to be in violation of everything it's stating to review ADDITIONALLY in violation of the Army's Core Value of INTEGRITY: "INTEGRITY Do what's right, legally and morally. Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends, and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself." [\*\*\*\*website: Caution-https://www.army.mil/values/] There is NO WAY to "renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns" as the Hawai'i Community clearly states: OPTION 4, NO ACTION = NO LEASE EXTENSION. LEASE EXPIRES 2029. Gil, will you relay this clearly stated community decision to Christine Wormuth? Gil, will the Army uphold its own core value of Integrity and take NO as an answer? Gil, will the Army fulfill its breached trust duties and clean up? Gil, will the Army leave upon Lease expiration in 2029? Gil, will there be zero Army presence in 2030? Gil, will there finally...after 128 years of illegal occupation[Caution-https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/national-lawyers-guild-acknowledges-hawaii-is-illegally-occupied/] , after 124 years of the Hawaiian people saying NO [Kū'e Petition of 1897, Caution-https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/hawaii-petition ], after 123 years of forced NO CONSENT GIVEN illegitimate annexation[Caution-https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/an-act-of-war-of-aggression-united-states-invasion-of-the-hawaiian-kingdom-on-august-12-1898/]...the will of, voices of, and clearly-stated decision of the Hawaiian people and of the Hawai'i community be heard and respected? NO is NO. LEASE EXPIRES 2029. ARMY 8 YEARS TO CLEAN UP - RESPECT ARMY CORE VALUE - INTEGRITY ARMY LEAVE 2029. NO is NO. Mahalo nui for your role as a CASA, Gil. Mālama pono, Tara

**From:** [Tara Rojas](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Written Testimony re: Army Lease in Hawai'i Expiring 2029  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 14:00:55 PM

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

This is my written testimony exactly how I sent it to Gil Tam, one of the two Hawai'i based appointed Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) which also serves as my written testimony to you, the Army, directly.

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Online EIS Scoping Testimonies 8/10/21 & 8/11/21 re: Army Lease in Hawai'i Expiring 2029

Aloha e Gil,  
Mahalo for fulfilling your duty by starting to review the videos and stating to finish them in their entirety as well as to 'listen closely', much appreciated. The community gave their heart and soul, and in several instances, generationally.

100% of Community of Hawai'i says NO.

The two nights of testimonies were 100% Option 4, No Action = No Lease Extensions.

I would like to share this mana'o:

"For Kānaka Maoli (and many of our indigenous relatives) a sense of place is of paramount importance to our way of being. We acknowledge that we do not belong in certain places. That we are also visitors in certain spaces. That when we ask for permission to enter a place sometimes the answer is No. Uncultured colonizers do not respect this epistemology and will serve their selfish desires despite Lack Of Consent. Sound familiar?" ~KanakaAutonomy

Will the Army take a resounding "NO" for an answer?

Or will the Army continue to push through as stated by the Secretary of the Army in this article\* to "find a way to renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns"?

[\*article: Caution-https://www.stripes.com/branches/army/2021-08-10/army-secretary-christine-wormuth-hawaii-training-grounds-2514694.html ]

Again, it is clearly recorded (Caution-https://www.youtube.com/usaghawaii/live) the two nights of testimonies by Community were 100% Option 4, No Action = No Lease

Extensions.

ABSOLUTE NO \*\*"way to renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns" = NO.

NO is NO.

In your volunteer position as an officially appointed CASA liaison, are you able to place aside your personal military: service, involvement, support, mindset in order to effectively and truly make known to the Army/Secretary of the Army the community voices and decision? No Lease Extensions. The community wants the Army to use these 8 years, instead of an EIS, to clean up the 'Āina and leave in 2029. The community has spoken and offered to HELP clean up.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court unanimous decision 5-0 also confirms the Army's need to clean up in this article\*\*: "High court rules state breached trust duties at Pohakuloa Training Area".

[\*\*article: Caution-<https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2019/08/23/hawaii-news/high-court-rules-state-breached-trust-duties-at-pohakuloa-training-area/> ]

The presentation stated the Environmental Topics to be analyzed in the EIS are mute as the Army violated and continues to violate in complete disregard each one of them...to the detriment of: the community, areas where they are located, the entire islands of Hawai'i.

Thus, please relay to the Secretary of the Army, Christine Wormuth, that the community wants the Army to stop with this EIS and to change it to an "8-YEAR CLEAN UP & RESTORATION PLAN" in order to leave promptly upon Lease Expiration in 2029.

2021-2029 = 8-YEAR CLEAN UP & RESTORATION PLAN.

Please hold the Army accountable to its own standards and seven values (loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage) as mentioned in the article\*\*\* which states that the seven values "are our baseline, our foundation, and our core. The moral and ethical tenets of the Army Values characterize the Army culture and describe the ethical standards expected of all Soldiers".

Also uphold the Army themselves as an entity as \*\*\*\*"the Army must continue to adhere to these Army Values" - in this specific case, to the Hawai'i Community and to Hawai'i itself upon leaving (the illegally stolen and occupied lands they are living in, training in, destroying, and contaminating) at the end of Expiration of Lease (\$1 for 65 years) in 2029.

[\*\*\*article: Caution-[https://www.army.mil/article/49405/army\\_values](https://www.army.mil/article/49405/army_values) ]

From the Army's website\*\*\*\* in their own words, which they need to adhere to, can

you please relay to them through Christine Wormuth what they say about:

"Many people know what the words Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage mean. But how often do you see someone actually live up to them? Soldiers learn these values in detail during Basic Combat Training (BCT), from then on they live them every day in everything they do — whether they're on the job or off. In short, the Seven Core Army Values listed below are what being a Soldier is all about."

and specifically in regards to how the entire EIS - proven by the Hawai'i Supreme Court's decision regarding the Army's breached trust duties - to be in violation of everything it's stating to review ADDITIONALLY in violation of the Army's Core Value of INTEGRITY:

#### "INTEGRITY"

Do what's right, legally and morally. Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends, and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself."

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There is NO WAY to "to renew the leases in a way that lets the training continue while addressing community concerns" as the Hawai'i Community clearly states: OPTION 4, NO ACTION = NO LEASE EXTENSION.

LEASE EXPIRES 2029.

Gil, will you relay this clearly stated community decision to Christine Wormuth?

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Gil, will the Army fulfill its breached trust duties and clean up?

Gil, will the Army leave upon Lease expiration in 2029?

Gil, will there be zero Army presence in 2030?

Gil, will there finally...

after 128 years of illegal occupation

[Caution-<https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/national-lawyers-guild-acknowledges-hawaii-is-illegally-occupied/> ],

after 124 years of the Hawaiian people saying NO

[Kū'e Petition of 1897, Caution-<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/hawaii-petition> ],

after 123 years of forced NO CONSENT GIVEN illegitimate annexation

[Caution-<https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/an-act-of-war-of-aggression-united-states-invasion-of-the-hawaiian-kingdom-on-august-12-1898/> ]

...the will of, voices of, and clearly-stated decision of the Hawaiian people and of the Hawai'i community be heard and respected?

NO is NO.  
LEASE EXPIRES 2029.  
ARMY 8 YEARS TO CLEAN UP - RESPECT  
ARMY CORE VALUE - INTEGRITY  
ARMY LEAVE 2029.  
NO is NO.

Mahalo nui for your role as a CASA, Gil.  
Mālama pono,  
Tara

## Tara Rojas

Aloha. I would like to ask -- request for 30 seconds just to say this -- I know it's the first one; I'm the first one up -- because there is no excuse. From a billion-dollar entity, you had, like, three, four hours to prepare for this. It is not hard to coordinate a Zoom link in which we can all see each other, mimicking an in-person session. I already called Amy, I already called the PR, and I gave the same comments. It's not hard, and especially to unlock the chat. So I just -- it's not related to my two minutes, and I just wanted to say that, because you had enough hours to create a Zoom link to mimic the in-person. And -- and you're saying the presentation for 75 minutes, where we are in the process, it's really important, and yet you -- the other man who spoke seemed apologetic about it but, you know, we have 75 people; unfortunately, we're going to be here for a long time. We don't care, you know. It's been 65 years of occupation of illegally stolen, you know, lease land. So I just wanted to say there is no excuse. If you are planning to -- you know, you can coordinate a response for warfare and, you know, for everything, but you have -- there is no excuse to not have this already set up within hours to prepare for it, given the governor's mandate today. So I just wanted to say that first. There is no excuse. Okay. So my two minutes, I'll go ahead right now and be respectful of everybody's time. So when -- Yeah. You have to allow us to say that, you know. If you can be apologetic, we can express what we're feeling as well. So again, when will no be no with the military, with understanding, with everything. Everything in the presentation can be summed up by the Native Hawaiians, who have been for 128 years, illegally occupied. You know the results. There has been the court case by Auntie Max and Uncle Fu Ching about the Army's failure to uphold their portion of the conditions of leasing the land for \$1 for 65 years. You have not cleaned up. We don't need training on Hawai'i sacred, beautiful kanaka maoli land. You have other plans to train. The Hawaiians, the Hawaiian allies have spoken. And no is no. We teach our children from small, do not steal, return what is not yours. We have Title IX about harassment. Nothing is done, but yet when we try to stand for what is right and what is pono, we are immediately either, you know, arrested or cited. Yet there is no excuse to have an action against kanaka maoli, yet big entities like the military, the government, they can always, oops, you know, I'm sorry, oh, let's do this. And they don't even follow -- you don't even follow your own laws. It is in there. It is in books published. It is online. Everything you need to know about the negative, detrimental effects of military in Hawai'i against Hawaiians, the land, and everything that encompasses aloha "aina. So the toxic pollution in the ocean. Take a look at Terry Lilley's documentation about the effects on the honu, the chemicals that you guys are, you know, dumping in the ocean. Yeah. So it's affecting. It's documented. We just stood at Laniakea because the state and the leadership is not doing nothing to even protect the honu, you know, which is extension of Kaneloa, extension of Hawaiians -- to do anything. The community has to take a stand always to do something, and we're always policed. We're always not excused. There is no excuse. Lease is up - \$1, ridiculously, for 65 years. The lease is up. I recommend and I strongly am for no action. It is time for Hawaiians to live on their own land. Hawai'i is Hawai'i because of Hawaiians. Please find other lands. Please leave at the end of your lease. Mahalo.

## Tara Rojas

Aloha. This is Tara Rojas. And I just want to say a comment to Colonel Misigoy. What will it take for you to take this up to your higher ups and just to say stop? The people have spoken. We don't need an EIS. Let's work from now, 2021, and let's work on an eight-year plan to clean up this 'aina and leave promptly in 2029, if not before. But literally, what will it take for you to stop this, hear the residents, the kanaka maoli, to hear the people?

I believe that it is not just a show. I believe that this is what you are looking for, to hear us and to take action upon it. So if the plan is not to do a cleanup from now, to leave, for eight years, to leave in 2029, then, no, you know, that I

Is what you are willing -- are you willing to go against the Hawaiians, the people and everything you just presented to us and everything you just said and all the years you've been here, to go against those who are willing to stand up, after having said it formally, that you have no consent, you are here illegally, and to please clean up and leave? Because that is where we are at now in 2021.

And I just want to end with this, that, you know, we learned from the Mauna. (Speaking Hawaiian.) Mahalo.

## Tara Rojas

And I just want to say mahalo e, Kahau. I looked up and I see, you know, what you stand for, and I just give you credit for being in the position you're in now. Okay. So I have three things that, you know, I want to say. Let's see, regarding the EPA, United States Environmental

Protection Agency, how it relates and the court, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruling, and Army values. So I'm going to go ahead right into it right now. So on the actual page, it says (inaudible) military munitions and federal facilities. A quick summary. To safeguard human health and environment, EPA and the Department of Defense must address the contamination legacy left by military munitions and exposes a concern. Munitions, unexploded ordinance, and other hazardous munitions materials left behind from military live-fire training or testing, open burning and opened detonation and munitions treatment destruction and their activities. According to

a December 2003 Government Accountability Office report, DOD suspects or acknowledges contamination by military munitions of an estimated 50 million acres of land. DOD estimates cleanup of these sites would cost from 8 billion to 35 billion. DOD transferred control of millions of acres of land used for manufacturing munitions to non-federal entities or the federal agencies to use for purposes other than their original intent. Most of these properties are now formerly used defense sites. The actual and potential human health and environmental effects of exposure to MEC or munitions constituents can vary from localized to widespread.

Besides the obvious danger exploding ordinance, harm can also result when humans in the environment are exposed to chemical warfare agents or other hazardous substances used in munitions. Contamination of soil and groundwater is the big concern. So everything you have in your EIS, everything that you presented on that last page of concern, it is on the EPA website. And August 23rd, 2019, the Hawaii Supreme Court rules state breached trust duties at Pohakuloa Training Area in a five to zero vote, overwhelming vote, that the state hasn't properly managed ceded lands at Pohakuloa lease lands for military training. And this was a case filed by Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation on behalf of Clarence Ching, Uncle Ku Ching and Auntie Maxine Kahauleilio are two Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Yeah. They found that you have not done your job of cleaning up. And this last thing is -- I'll go into that more, but my little one wants to speak, too.

The Army values. I have your page open. Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. So Colonel Misigoy, the last statement you gave after yesterday's meeting, you were, like, you know, I appreciate that you see me as a human. I understand the relationships I have, you know, with you all here. However, we're going to continue with this EIS. This is overwhelmingly, 100 percent against renewing of these leases. No action taken. Eight years to clean up and to leave.

And again, going into this integrity, do what's right. This is from the Army website. Do what's right legally and morally. Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others -- which is what is happening right now. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. There is no trust.

The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself. So really think about it. I also looked online, the hierarchy where you are at, Colonel, and there's about maybe five levels above you. Is it worth it? Is the life you want to live? You're causing trauma. You're causing contamination. And this is ongoing for generations. You've heard it. And last, I want my little -- go ahead. (MS. ROJAS' MO'OPUNA: No leasing.

Please leave.) Yeah. So you hear, then. No lease. Clean up. Please leave. A 7-year-old. Mahalo.

Shelby Ronnberg

Give back the native land

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**From:** Shelby Ronnberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 19:49  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawai'i

Give back the native land

## Abigail Rose

The impact of military exercises on the land and residents is immeasurable, and yet they are given an extremely low lease on Hawaiian lands. Makua Valley cannot be used as it was traditionally because of unexploded munitions. O'ahu is already overcrowded with military taking up housing, flying over residences, and polluting the island. I am against renewing these leases. We are not at war and there are many other unoccupied places in the continental USA. Stop the destruction of the land and the rip-off of lands.

## Abigail Rose

The army has been polluting our lands and water for too long. These leases should be ended or at least limited. The island of Kahoolawe is uninhabitable because of bombing. The land in Makua is unusable because of ordinances. Meanwhile thousands of working Kanaka Maoli are homeless. The land needs to be given back!

## Abigail Rose

I'm here to say that I do not want to see any extension of leases here. I'm standing here with kanaka maoli as a local haole. Been here since 1962. I was around to see the destruction of Kaho'olawe, when that land, which was usable land, a land people lived on, was used as a bombing target, and bombed so much that it broke the water table, and the land is no longer something that can be inhabited. I'm a public school teacher, have been teaching here for a long time. I hear all the time about things like the tanks at Red Hill. They're leaking. But the military says, well, it's only a little leak. Of toxic fluids into our water table. You know, I've talked to people before, who live on the continent. We're a little, tiny dot on the globe, if you look at us. We have a huge military presence, Oahu especially. At any point in time, a third of the population is military. That shouldn't be happening. And since the military is moving off base, now it's caused housing to go up. And I think when I look back at the history, that military presence has been here since the overthrow, never been invited, never been wanted, and yet here we have this, as people are saying, performative meeting asking how we feel. We don't want you here. I don't mind the military, but America is a huge continent. We're not Americans. I'm an immigrant, so I can say I'm not an American either. But I've looked at all the things that have happened, and the Army, the military has never cleaned up the mess that they made.... I just, you know, I'm saying no to leases, and I stand with kanaka maoli in asking for their land back.

## Alexa Rose

I am a resident of Florida. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

How can you seriously rent this land for \$1? \$1? Do you think the citizens of America will not notice?

Madelyn Rose

hello,Where can I find environmental impact statement regarding the armies use of 23,000 acres of Oahu land?  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Madelyn Rose](#)  
**To:** [DLNR,LD Land](#)  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 11:53:14 AM

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hello,  
Where can I find environmental impact statement regarding the armies use of 23,000 acres of Oahu land?  
  
Sent from my iPhone



## Susan Rosier

I know. I'll scoot up. So my name is Susan Rosier. I am currently for the last 12 years living on Moku o Keawe, the island of Hawai'i. Before that, I lived on Maui and raised my children over there and am very, very familiar with the military because Kaho'olawe bombing was a part of my family experience, with the ground shaking and the skies lit up and the bombs rocking the place. And the military didn't clean that up. And where I live here, up Pohakuloa, they're not cleaning that up either. And in your presentation, it was talked about how you take care of cultural sites and things like that. And all of that on paper sounds really, really good. You know, it's going to look impressive.

But the reality of it is that it doesn't happen. On Kaho'olawe, they put big circles around the heiau, and those were the targets. They made the circles so the nations from around the world could come and bomb the islands.

This is the land of aloha. I find it extremely, extremely offensive that the military is naming things that go around the world and kill people and maim people Hawaiian names. Stop that. Stop it. I'm sure, Colonel, you would be able to relay that message up above, because that's, like, heart-wrenching. Obviously, our military doesn't understand what aloha really is.

So you were told tonight that this is not really a state of the United States. And we all know that by fact now, because documented original source documents have been shown to us, and we are all now very educated in knowing that you are here illegally and have been.

And when the military originally had all of those executive orders, there was a military crisis. There's not a military crisis today. There hasn't been a war since when? Korean War was the last declared war. Because after that, the military doesn't declare wars.

When somebody is sent off, like my son-in-law, God rest his soul, who went to war in the Gulf War, they called it a war. They sent him to the Gulf War, and he passed away. And his son couldn't even get the \$10,000 that was promised for an education. His kids weren't even school age when he passed away.

During my last 30 seconds, I would say, you know, your best -- you're not going to do it, because you're only going to check the box, yes, we had the people talk. Check. That's what happens. But this problem is not going to go away. It's not going to go away, and everybody needs to get on the same page and talk about it.

You really shouldn't renew the leases. That is private land that was taken away by the insurgents, who Cleveland said were not legally in charge of the country. Therefore, their Republic of Hawaii had no right to sign over anything to you folks, and you folks had no right to take it.

And the statehood vote? We know that's a fraud, too, including the ballot. So take number 4, no action. I know you're not going to, but that's what everybody wants. And thank you very much. I'm upset.

## Anjoli Roy

I am writing to second the following concerns about the extension of US military leases of Hawaiian lands:

As a community member, I do not support the extension of any of the leases. Secondly, below is a list of suggestions I'd like to submit as part of the public scoping process on what should be included in the EIS.

1. The EIS on the Army Training Land Retention O'ahu should consider the impacts on Native Hawaiians, 'āina, and women & and girls.· Given the extreme importance of land in Hawaiian culture, what are the impacts on Native Hawaiians--socially, emotionally, and economically--of having these large tracts of land used for military training purposes without their consent? What cultural resources do these lands hold, and what have been the impacts of not having access to these cultural resources for so long?· What are the impacts on 'āina of military use for training purposes? What are the impacts on erosion, groundwater, air quality, endangered species and ecosystems, and contamination via hazardous materials such as waste and unexploded ordnance? Is the retention of these lands compatible with land use conservation mandates?· What are the impacts on women and girls of these training areas? Are women and girls in communities around military training areas and installations safe from sexual assault and trafficking? Do they have access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities?
2. The EIS should explore not just the future impacts of retaining these lands, but should research and document the impacts already felt by the stakeholders mentioned above over the course of the last 65-year lease.
3. The EIS should explore the legality of Army use of these lands, when significant portions of the lands are Hawaiian Kingdom Crown & Government lands that were transferred due to the illegal overthrow and annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom.
4. The EIS should--in addition to exploring the impacts of the outlined Alternatives 1, 2, and 3--also consider the opportunity cost of these alternatives. In other words, the EIS should consider the possible positive impacts of the "No Action Alternative."· What are the cultural services that could be provided by these lands if access for Native Hawaiians was free, unimpeded, and safe?· What are the ecosystem services provided by these lands?· What are the opportunities for education, stewardship, housing, or other uses to which these lands could be put?· What is the fair market value of these lands, and how does that compare with the \$1 lease that the Army pays?
5. The Army has stated that the training lands remain essential to their mission. The EIS public scoping and draft commenting process should solicit input from community organizations about if and how these lands are essential to their own missions and visions for their communities.

To end, I'd like to say that I understand that training is critical to the DOD's Indo-Pacific strategy--especially the focus on "preparedness." However I do not support simply moving all the training to some other location, where the same negative impacts of training can be visited on another community and their land, whether those communities are inside or outside of the U.S. Rather, I think we need to rethink the Indo-Pacific strategy and the broader way that the U.S. sees its global role. The U.S. is not exceptional, and its interests do not carry more moral force than any other nation's interests. The U.S. should prioritize actual peace and coexistence, rather than practicing forward posturing that--rather than deterring threats--only contributes to a cycle of inciting adversaries, necessitating the buildup of more lethal force, and leaving the whole region in an increasing state of precarity.

Kelsey AmosXXX XXXX Ave. Apt.X.Honolulu, HI XXXXXXXX-XXX-XXXX

seconded by me, Anjoli Roy, XXX XXXX Street, Apartment XXX, Honolulu, HI XXXXX

## Julia Ruch

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the land of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. Extending these leases will allow for the military to cause further damage to the natural resources of these areas, destroy the habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

Erin Rutherford

Hello, I was unable to attend the Zoom meetings on August 10 and 11th which reviewed the EIS and discussed the future leases at Kahuku, Kawaiioa and Makua. I am submitting my comments of OPPOSITION to renewing the land leases for the US Army in writing. For centuries the American government and military has colonized, white-washed, oppressed, and abused the lands of Hawaii and the Hawaiian people. At what point is enough enough? The military has ample places for training in the mainland. Why would you continue to use land on one of the most sacred, precious places on earth? I'm sure there's an imperialist justification in there somewhere for why it must be this land and why being there really helps the Hawaiian people. The US military has experienced and committed one disaster after another during its abhorrent history. A 20 year war in Afghanistan showcases the most recent disaster. The army has a unique opportunity to save some face and do something that benefits the people and listens to what they want. I beg the US Army to please move out at the end of your lease. Go somewhere else where people actually want you there. Thank you, Erin

**From:** [erin.rutherford](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Written Comments for Army leases at Kahuku, Kawaiioa-Poamoho and Mākua  
**Date:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 17:47:38 PM

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Hello, I was unable to attend the Zoom meetings on August 10 and 11th which reviewed the EIS and discussed the future leases at Kahuku, Kawaiioa and Makua. I am submitting my comments of OPPOSITION to renewing the land leases for the US Army in writing. For centuries the American government and military has colonized, white-washed, oppressed, and abused the lands of Hawaii and the Hawaiian people. At what point is enough enough? The military has ample places for training in the mainland. Why would you continue to use land on one of the most sacred, precious places on earth? I'm sure there's an imperialist justification in there somewhere for why it must be this land and why being there really helps the Hawaiian people. The US military has experienced and committed one disaster after another during its abhorrent history. A 20 year war in Afghanistan showcases the most recent disaster. The army has a unique opportunity to save some face and do something that benefits the people and listens to what they want. I beg the US Army to please move out at the end of your lease. Go somewhere else where people actually want you there. Thank you, Erin

Alohilani Sabado

Hewa loa.

Mikeila Sahlstrom

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

## Ryan-Lowary Sam Fong

I strongly OPPOSE the Army training land retention of Makua Valley, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho. As a resident of Wai'anāe, O'ahu, having learned about how Makua Valley was obtained to begin with, how it was treated until a cease-fire order in the early 2000s, and knowing Pohakuloa is already retained, I see no need for the continued use of these lands here on O'ahu for use. I read in the Star Advertiser that the Army is claiming that they saved 3 Native plants from extinction in Makua Valley, and to that I say what about all the rest that was destroyed before then? Saving 3 plants does not constitute as making up for the generational trauma, the destruction of the former village there, nor for the fact that the land was supposed to be given back in 2029 as agreed upon. The extension of the use of land for another 45 years means that my grandchildren, should they ever come about, will then also have to write up something similar to receive back a Valley that meant more than just "a convenient training area" to their ancestors, to their people, to their grandparent. You have Pohakuloa, is that not enough already? Stay true to your original agreement, and give back Makua Valley, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho.

## Elisa Sanchez

Aloha,

My name is Elisa and I am a resident of California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

With the recent IPCC report, we must do what we can to preserve nature and ecological system that has been present on the island for thousands of years. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural limited resources of the island.

The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the land should be immeasurably restored to the public.

Thank you,  
Elisa Sanchez

**From:** Elisa Sanchez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:40  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii

Aloha,

My name is Elisa and I am a resident of California. I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

With the recent IPCC report, we must do what we can to preserve nature and ecological system that has been present on the island for thousands of years. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural limited resources of the island.

The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the land should be immeasurable restored to the public.

Thank you,

Elisa Sanchez

Luz Sanchez

I oppose Army training land on Oahu.

## Samantha Sanchez

Hi,  
My name is Samantha Sanchez and I am a resident of Florida. I am strongly opposing the extension of the military lease on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa.  
An extension of the lease will only allow for the military to further damage the the natural resources of these areas, and destroy the natural habitats of the Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disruptive the lives of the local community.  
The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Brittany Sandoval

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be returned to the public.

## Kawai Santiago

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... This is illegally occupied land. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these

communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'ānae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'ānae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs.* Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'ānae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



From: Kawai Santiago  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kawai Santiago  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 16:02:07 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Kawai Santiago

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: HALEIWA 96712

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

This is illegally occupied land.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for

\$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands

from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through

mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Natalie Santiago

Aloha e to whom it may concern,

I am writing with "aloha" to kindly ask that you return all illegally occupied aina in the Hawaiian Kingdom. No more "fear" or "fraud".

It is time for healing and doing the right thing. A time for peace and unconditional love. A time for sustainability and equanimity. A time for "aloha aina" for we "all" are aina.

Please know that if I, Kamehaikanaonalaninui, my family, ancestors and relatives have offended you ~ the United States Military forces, your family, ancestors, in thoughts, words, deeds or actions from the beginning if creation to the present time, then please forgive us as we forgive you, please take all negative blocks, energies and vibrations, cleanse and purify , cut and release and send to the light. And we are set free and It Is Done.

Malama pono,Kamehaikanaonalaninui

Sent from my iPhone



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**From:** Natalie Santiago [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:24  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Makua

Aloha e to whom it may concern,

I am writing with "aloha" to kindly ask that you return all illegally occupied aina in the Hawaiian Kingdom. No more "fear" or "fraud".

It is time for healing and doing the right thing. A time for peace and unconditional love. A time for sustainability and equanimity. A time for "aloha aina" for we "all" are aina.

Please know that if I, Kamehaikanaonalaninui, my family, ancestors and relatives have offended you ~ the United States Military forces, your family, ancestors, in thoughts, words, deeds or actions from the beginning if creation to the present time, then please forgive us as we forgive you, please take all negative blocks, energies and vibrations, cleanse and purify , cut and release and send to the light. And we are set free and It Is Done.

Malama pono,  
Kamehaikanaonalaninui

Sent from my iPhone

## Nic Santos

Aloha,

I submit this testimony based on nearly 15 years of experience with NEPA through the Section 106 process as conducted in Guam. Since 2006, I personally wrote and was involved with organizations and government entities that submitted testimony (at one point, including over 10,000 comments), as well as reviewed and analyzed in response to the DoD realignment basing efforts in the Pacific, specifically the moving of Marine Corps troops from Okinawa to Guam for military mission training . I provide this background of experience as I witness in Hawai'i the proposed action by the Army to extend leases at Pōhakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaiiloa/Poamoho, and Mākua, and the responses at the virtual scoping meeting, all of which were in opposition.

I question a type of "real estate action" that folds the request for extension of these four leases into one proposed action. Why do not each of the public lands at Pōhakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaiiloa/Poamoho, and Mākua have separate and distinct access to the Section 106 process? Environmental impacts for each area must and should be outlined so that cumulative impacts on each of the lands over the 65-year period may be understood by the people for whom these lands are home. It is in this manner that communities would best be able to participate and comment in the EIS process. A community-based consultation on the cumulative impacts for each leased area would allow for more comprehensive analyses from those who live there and are the experts of the resources that are most vulnerable and continue to be threatened due to military actions in and on these lands.

Public participation in 2021 has evolved since the signing of the 1964 lease agreement encompassing the 30,000 acres of public land at Pōhakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaiiloa/Poamoho, and Mākua. How can this EIS process be more representative of a true and proper consultation with the native communities of this land? This might require looking back to 1964 and asking if consent and consultation by native communities for this 65-year lease was adequately arrived at in ways that were just and truly representative of what the impacts would be for the futures of Native Hawaiians and their lands. This proposed action, this real estate action is blanket action and it does not consider the gravity of cumulative military actions in each of these different lands over the 65-year period and beyond.

Lastly, for now, the alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, described as "1) Full Retention, 2) Modified Retention, and 3) Minimum Retention and Access" dismisses, belittles and sterilizes the true impacts of these military actions on the communities asked to participate. How could these alternatives, and the EIS process itself, be better representative of options that acknowledge the livelihood of people, their families and the connection they have to their homelands? The analysis of environmental impacts on these lands must be a process that accounts for the people's experience. This is not just a matter of retaining full, modified or minimum continued access to these lands. This EIS process must consider indigenous worldviews that see how one action or even long-term action undoubtedly impacts the whole, and that such actions may not be in the best interest of the people and their environments, even in matters of defense.

Nic Santos

O'ahu & Guåhan

Sima Saoji

Demilitarize Hawaii

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**From:** Sima Saoji [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 4:04  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Demilitarize Hawaii

Demilitarize Hawaii

## Michael Sarmiento

I understand that the Army is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu. I oppose the renewal of these leases and ask that the Army take responsibility for the clean up of these areas and that the lands be returned to the communities in which they are found. The military has taken advantage of its position and has brought harm to these lands and our community. As someone who has grown up in Makaha listening to the bombs explode as a young child I now ask that you return these lands so that healing process can truly begin. Our community is ready to take on the responsibility of these places. My hope is that the Army can see the damage they have caused and will do the right things. We are a small island with finite resources. If the Army is truly the honorable organization they claim to be then they should do the most honorable thing and allow the leases to expire.

## Taylor Saunders

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the

cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our

communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anāe, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** [Taylor Saunders](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Taylor Saunders  
**Date:** Friday, August 27, 2021 14:56:49 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Taylor Saunders

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Hilo, Hawaii 96720

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and



conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The

EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the

same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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Powered by



August 11, 2021

Aloha,

My name is Kristi-Ann Say and I am a 4th generation Native Hawaiian resident of Wahiawā, O'ahu. I am writing today to express my heavy opposition towards the extension of U.S. military leases on the lands of Kahuku, Mākua, and Wahiawā. By continuing to lease these 6,300 acres of land to the U.S. military, you are perpetuation the destruction of Hawai'i as a whole. I cannot say I understand the justification of the retention and usage of these lands by the U.S. military. I can only understand the perspective of my own. As Native Hawaiians we are people born from this 'āina. Our connection to the land is unlike that of people who were transplanted here. To know that our land is being used for destruction, and the practice of destruction of others, is stripping us and our future generations of our identity as peaceful people that hold the life of our land above our own. To see military personnel swarming my hometown daily, to hear the gunshots from my house, to have the helicopters constantly fly overhead shaking my home and rattling my windows is a constant reminder of the cultural murder we are facing. It is already a struggle to be able to afford to live here, the place of my ancestors, so it is a slap in the face to know there are 6,300 acres of land being leased out to the U.S. military for a DOLLAR every 65 years. There is absolutely no benefit to the 'āina nor the Hawaiian people with the military occupying our home for such a ridiculous price and reason. A Hawaiian proverb used constantly in our culture, and one I wish your eyes be opened to is, "i ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope." Which roughly translates to "we look to the past to guide our future." In this case, we are seeing a repeat in history as we once saw our island of Kaho'olawe used as a place for target practice for decades. A place sacred to Native Hawaiians was restricted from us, destroyed, and the pieces left for us to pick up continuing over thirty years later. It is time for the U.S. military to leave. It is but a dream for the military to clean up after themselves and leave as if they were never there. But that is impossible. Instead, it is time for the U.S. military to give us back our land so she can heal and be restored for our generations to come. Therefore, in the Environmental Impact Statement, I hope it will be taken into consideration that we, the Native Hawaiian people, are just as impacted as our 'āina is with every bullet shot, every bomb set off, and every minute that the U.S. military spends occupying our land.

Mahalo

## Devin Scanlan

I have seen the before and after pictures of military occupancy. The land being destroyed just to test weapons. The destruction to ocean life & environment. While I was in Hawaiian studies back home, it really shines a light on the negatives of Military occupancy that people and the media don't show.

## Elena Schaefer

My name is Elena Schaefer and I'm writing to oppose the re-leasing of all US Army land in the state of Hawai'i.

The US military is currently using 30,000 acres of land in Hawaii. In addition, the US military is one of the biggest polluters and emitters of CO2 IN THE WORLD. This is directly contrary to all Hawai'i values of care and respect for our planet.

It's time to put the people, the animals, the plants, and the land of Hawai'i first and reject the violent and colonizing interests of the US military. You have an opportunity to refuse to re-lease these lands to the US military, and it is imperative that you take it. Do your part in protecting this beautiful place and its people.

Thank you for your service, Elena Schaefer

**From:** [Elena Schaefer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO US military bases in Hawai'i  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 3:27:09 AM

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My name is Elena Schaefer and I'm writing to oppose the re-leasing of all US Army land in the state of Hawai'i.

The US military is currently using 30,000 acres of land in Hawaii. In addition, the US military is one of the biggest polluters and emitters of CO2 IN THE WORLD. This is directly contrary to all Hawai'i values of care and respect for our planet.

It's time to put the people, the animals, the plants, and the land of Hawai'i first and reject the violent and colonizing interests of the US military. You have an opportunity to refuse to re-lease these lands to the US military, and it is imperative that you take it. Do your part in protecting this beautiful place and its people.

Thank you for your service,  
Elena Schaefer

Elena Schaefer

Hello,

My name is Elena Schaefer and I'm writing to oppose the re-leasing of all US Army land in the state of Hawaii. Hawaii is a thriving community of indigenous people and communities who care deeply about the islands and who have faced US military invasion and occupation in the past. These people have no desire to play any role in the US military's continuing policies of needless violence, military occupation, colonialism, and the support of human rights violations all over the world.

The US military is currently using 30,000 acres of land in Hawaii. In addition, the US military is one of the biggest polluters and emitters of CO2 IN THE WORLD. This is directly contrary to all Hawai'i values of care and respect for our planet. Return this sacred land to the people who know how to care for it best and leave this state and its people out of the US military's atrocities.

Sincerely,Elena Schaefer



**From:** [Elena Schaef](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] NO US military bases in Hawaii  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 3:23:47 AM

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Hello,

My name is Elena Schaef and I'm writing to oppose the re-leasing of all US Army land in the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii is a thriving community of indigenous people and communities who care deeply about the islands and who have faced US military invasion and occupation in the past. These people have no desire to play any role in the US military's continuing policies of needless violence, military occupation, colonialism, and the support of human rights violations all over the world.

The US military is currently using 30,000 acres of land in Hawaii. In addition, the US military is one of the biggest polluters and emitters of CO2 IN THE WORLD. This is directly contrary to all Hawaiiin values of care and respect for our planet. Return this sacred land to the people who know how to care for it best and leave this state and its people out of the US military's atrocities.

Sincerely,  
Elena Schaef

## Daniel Schlieder

To who it may concern,

I'm emailing you concerning the U.S. Army lease extension at Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa that is coming for renewal in 2029. This land has been leased for \$1 since 1964. I'm a firm supporter of the security of our nation and believe there is a balance to be had with military training here on these islands and the land that was previously in stewardship of the Hawaiian people.

I think we can all agree that at bare minimum if the lease of this land is extended, it should be leased at full market rate. The money can be allocated to fund environmental initiatives, the education system, healthcare, and mental health resources for the homeless population across Oahu and the Hawaiian Islands.

Thank you for your consideration

Daniel Schlieder MD, DDS

## Phil Schlieder

Aloha. My name is Phil Schlieder in with my company Delphi Cinema. We work with our trusted media partners of common worldwide, which works with Department of Defense. And groups such as Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics. I'm all for international security and security of our country for the United States of America, but I'm calling in concerns to the US Army that has leased the public lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa for \$1 since 1964. Now I think anyone listening to this voicemail can understand that \$1 is stolen land that is not appropriate. And I think we all realize that as as humans on this planet. And so I am calling, along with many, many other HAWAIIAN PEOPLE. And and people that live on these islands to either return the land back to its rightful owners and stewardship of the land that is not focused on bombing, shooting and dropping explosives in these areas, to clean up those areas and at very least pay market rate for that land per acre, which would give you given back to the people of Hawaii to support the education system to support roads and infrastructure and to build a prosperous prosperous Hawaii. And I think that's a very important thing. And anyone. Once again, whatever state, you're from wherever you are located in the United States of America. Yes, we do agree there is a balance between the US military and how we need to protect our nation and our security forces. But to do that, in accordance to what our country stands for which is for all the people and everyone that lives in the confines of this country. So I appreciate the time And I hope that you guys all do the right thing, whoever is in the position of leadership to move this forward \$1 is once again very much stolen land.

## Keith Scott

Aloha mai kākou,  
My name is Keith Scott and I am a resident of O'ahu. I am firmly against the US military's occupation of the Makua Valley. Makua Valley is a very important cultural and historical site for native Hawaiians, and it belongs in Hawaiian hands and under the care of Hawaiian practitioners, and not the US military.  
My family and I have had the opportunity to tour Makua Valley once. It was unbelievably lush and splendid. Underneath this veneer, however, was a very violent past. At multiple points, our tour was cut short or redirected because unexploded ordinance had been revealed. We were told that every time the life-giving rains descend on the once-lifegiving valley, it would reveal the dangers of unexploded shells launched over several decades into the valley. At one point, we even found an important native Hawaiian cultural site (a boulder that had clearly been used for some ritual and/or everyday use) had been blasted in half by a mortar shell. Even in this rich and verdant valley, spent shell casings and discarded bullets were scattered about. And the shocking thing was that we were only touring the well-trodden portions of the valley. The places where many people have come before and, presumably, the worst of the spent ordinance would have been long since removed. And yet I saw the valley in such a dismal shape. Imagine what it must look like deeper in the valley, where the army handlers don't let people go and where ordinance has been allowed to fester in the open. Clearly, the US military has failed in its promise to be "good stewards" of the 'aina. Far from it. They are a threat.  
I think the most shocking and depressing part of the tour was at the end, when we were shown the amazing petroglyphs that ancient native Hawaiians had carved in the rock near the entrance to the valley. The carvings had somehow, almost inexplicably, survived the military occupation and were preserved. However, because they were behind barbed wire and cordoned off from the surrounding areas, few native Hawaiians could actually see them, let alone understand their cultural importance and historical significance. The US military, by occupying Makua Valley, is sequestering and hiding a key site of Hawaiian culture and history. This, as the Hawaiian people are desperately reaching to grasp their past, that was so violently ripped from them by the illegal occupation of their land.  
It is at these times when one can deeply consider what the purpose of the military in Hawai'i actually is. If it truly is here in order to defend this land, then there is no other recourse but to leave the land that it has so dreadfully hurt. It is my sincere hope that the US military returns Makua Valley to its rightful owners, the Native Hawaiian people.  
Best regards, Keith Scott

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**From:** Keith Scott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 22:10  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] US military lease of Makua Valley

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Keith Scott and I am a resident of O'ahu. I am firmly against the US military's occupation of the Makua Valley. Makua Valley is a very important cultural and historical site for native Hawaiians, and it belongs in Hawaiian hands and under the care of Hawaiian practitioners, and not the US military.

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Best regards,  
Keith Scott

## Shoen Scott

Aloha! My name is Shoen Scott and I am born and raised in Laie, Hawai'i my whole life. From a very young age I was taught that things that are out of our control have to be accepted. Here in my home I am to accept a foreign power that is not only squeezing the life out of our ecosystems but allowing entitled militia to feel they are above locals. But I am choosing the latter now that I am older and have more knowledge of my power. The military needs to give back the lands to the natives because of the abuse of the land that is so normalized to our aina. Military and welfare training includes bombing, shooting which is destroying our environment. Please hear our voices and give the land back to us locals. Help us repair the damage done to our land and be an example to other states that the military will heed our pleas. Mahalo for taking the time to read this.



## Christopher Seals

They are obtaining entirely too much land! The land is limited and should be returned! They have more than enough space for training in the states they don't need Oahu also!!!or any of Hawai'i

## Alexandria Seger

Hello!

My name is Alexandria Seger, I'm a US citizen, I live in Fort Myers, FL. I oppose the military getting the Hawaiian land renewed. They are there illegally and don't belong there. Citizens there don't feel safe hearing constant gun shots and having bombs be tested out on their land. Please don't renew the use, find somewhere else to go.

Thank you,Alexandria Seger

**From:** Alexandria Seger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:26  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military in Hawaii

Hello!

My name is Alexandria Seger, I'm a US citizen, I live in Fort Myers, FL. I oppose the military getting the Hawaiian land renewed. They are there illegally and don't belong there. Citizens there don't feel safe hearing constant gun shots and having bombs be tested out on their land. Please don't renew the use, find somewhere else to go.

Thank you,  
Alexandria Seger

Hannah Sennett

I am completely against the US military occupation of native Hawaiian land. Do not renew the lease. \$1 in rent is absolutely shameful. Do better. Find another place to destroy.

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**From:** Hannah Sennett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:29  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Stop occupying Hawaii

I am completely against the US military occupation of native Hawaiian land. Do not renew the lease. \$1 in rent is absolutely shameful. Do better. Find another place to destroy.

Alika Seto

"Hello, my name is Jeremy Joseph Kamohonua Alika Seto and calling in regards to the occupation of the military on O'ahu's North Shore and I oppose extending any leases, land leases to any of the military on any of the islands, especially on the north shore of O'ahu. Thank you, have a nice day. "

## Julia Seydel

Hello, my name is Julia and I am a resident of Portland Oregon. I'm writing to express my opposition to extending the lease of the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā to the military. Extending the lease will allow further unjust damage to the natural resources of these areas, and continue the disruption to the lives of local communities.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the lands must be immediately restored to the public!

Sincerely, Julia

## Sheila Shahbazi

Hi, my name is Sheila Shahbazi and I'm a resident of Los Angeles, California. I support indigenous people's rights around the world and that is why I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expiring 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you.

## Sheela Sharma

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Sheela Sharma [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:03  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Sheela Sharma

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Sheela Sharma
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	<p>Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality</p>

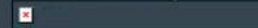
acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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Geoff Shaw

I oppose renewing the leases for further training activities, the Army is a poor steward for these lands with no accountability, they should immediately begin to clean up after themselves and cease training activities on stolen land. Give the Apology Bill some teeth and accept responsibility.

**From:** Geoff Shaw [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 12:52  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Leasing state lands for military training

I oppose renewing the leases for further training activities, the Army is a poor steward for these lands with no accountability, they should immediately begin to clean up after themselves and cease training activities on stolen land. Give the Apology Bill some teeth and accept responsibility.



## Jocelyn shaw

Good Afternoon, All. So it has come to my attention that you all are unauthorized by the people's of the lands that you are invading to actively steal their lands for your self interests I would hope you would have more integrity then to fo something so heinous and intrusive and overwhelmingly disrespectful and yet unfortunately you have no sense of such things. I do hope you would come to the side of honor and do what is right and stay as far away from them as possible and yet it is well known that you all have never been able to act in such ways expect full resistance and full defense do better and have some semblance of decency could you thanks

## Jacob Shearer

Aloha. My name is Jacob Shearer. I'm a resident of Kaimuki. I'm calling in opposition to the extension of military leases on Oahu. The largest reason for me is that I think it's unfair and disrespectful for the military to be allowed to lease so much land for so little money when kanaka still still don't have that kind of access to their own lands. I think that all of those extensive lands could be used for better purposes if they were put into the hands of Hawaiians. As far as the environmental assessment. I think that the public is aware of the degradation that occurs on those lands when they're used by the military. I think that an assessment should look thoroughly into the long term effects on native populations of plants and animals as well as into the effects on the water table. Really, I think there are a lot of things that would, that would show the detriment of the uses on those lands. Yes, so I oppose it. I do not think that those leases should be extended. Mahalo

Samantha Shell

The Army is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu, in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), guided by Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 1500–1508, and Title 32 C.F.R. Part 651, and the Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200.1, collectively referred to as the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA).

Devika Shenoy

The land belongs to the indigenous folx of Hawaii and it is to be respected. Using sacred land (or any land, for that matter) for military training purposes accelerates the destruction of the environment and worsens our journey to climate change. As a citizen of the U.S, it would be highly disappointing to see the US military continue to engage in such disrespectful behavior. If you continue to use their land for military training, your actions will reflect the US Military's continued efforts to impose neocolonialism, imperialism, and land destruction around the world. It is time to do better. Do not use this land for military purposes.

## Elizabeth Sheppard

Dear State Officials of Hawai'i Department of Land Resources:

Please do not renew your lease to the U.S. Military on your native lands. This is a great opportunity to decrease our military footprint and divert our tax dollars from destruction to preservation of life on our threatened planet. We spend over half our federal budget on wars and military might, while people go hungry and suffer from natural disasters. This is not to mention our destruction of natural resources. Military might does not keep us safe. It impoverishes all of us. We must not engage in another race to war, but a race towards peace. Lets accept this challenge for peace. The beautiful land of Hawai'i with it's resourceful people is a wonderful place to begin.

Respectfully,

ELIZABETH SHEPPARD [REDACTED] Do good, love justice, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

From: [Elizabeth Sheppard](#)  
To: [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lease to the U.S. Military on native lands  
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 15:44:03 PM

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Dear State Officials of Hawai'i Department of Land Resources:

Please do not renew your lease to the U.S. Military on your native lands. This is a great opportunity to decrease our military footprint and divert our tax dollars from destruction to preservation of life on our threatened planet. We spend over half our federal budget on wars and military might, while people go hungry and suffer from natural disasters. This is not to mention our destruction of natural resources. Military might does not keep us safe. It impoverishes all of us. We must not engage in another race to war, but a race towards peace. Lets accept this challenge for peace. The beautiful land of Hawai'i with it's resourceful people is a wonderful place to begin.

Respectfully,

ELIZABETH SHEPPARD

[REDACTED]

Do good, love justice, and walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6:8*

## Elise Sherrill

Hello, the land the Army is currently occupying for Army training land, rightfully belongs to Indigenous Hawaiians. Their land has been stolen and sold out from underneath them. Hawaii is a small paradise that belongs to the Hawaiian people. I am asking you to not retain the land. Allow the native people to care for it and keep this small ecological wonder safe.

## Keolakawai Spencer Shimabukuro

Aloha kakou. Keolakawaigeko Spencer Shimabukuro ko inoa. No Wahiawa mai. I'm a U.H. Hilo graduate and a current master's student in linguistics at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan. Born and raised in Wahiawa, I was woken up and put to sleep not by my mother, not by an alarm clock, but by the horrendous sounds of U.S. military aircrafts blasting their engines of war with the sounds of rapid machine weaponry at the crack of dawn and at the dead of night. Many of us have become accustomed to the idea of impending war and doom on our once peaceful islands. We've become numb to the treatment of our land as a commodity for predatory tourism and U.S. militarism. But not anymore. It is apparent that you believe that you will be welcomed into this prolonged treatment of our land, our ancestor, which amounts to pennies through meaningless environmental statements. However, the only acceptable environment statement is simple. You leave us. Only by the U.S. military leaving protect the fragile and delicate 'aina that has been stripped of all cultural and spiritual value and suppressed with a military stranglehold since the U.S. military-led overthrow in 1893. Leaving will become the starting point of healing the wounds and the generational trauma that Hawaiians have been enduring throughout the illegal U.S. occupation of our islands. Indeed, there is no such thing as environmental militarism. There's nothing sustainable about military training fields. There is nothing forgivable to the continuing misuse of native lands. Furthermore, militarism goes against the express wishes of Native Hawaiian self-determination and our longing to live on the land at an affordable cost. Not leaving will only bring further nuclear contamination, further bombing, further desecration of sacred lands, further removal and dispossession of native remains and native people, further delusions of American cultural superiority, and most of all, further death around the world. In closing, we have not and never have and never will consent to the further destruction of our land. Let the leases expire or leave as soon as possible. Thank you for your time. Mahalo. And thank you so much to the ASL interpreters. Mahalo.

## Thomas T. Shirai Jr.

But anyway, I'm here to testify. I have three students. I served in the Coast Guard, but I also have other feelings, cultural feeling, and stuff of that sort. And I know Colonel, because we have the Kawaihapai Airfield meetings of currently the lease section by DOT and stuff of that sort. So I know him already. And he knows me.

But if there's one point, just three basic -- some basic things. Number one, I think one of the biggest things that everybody in the Hawaiian community that said this. The lease of \$1 for 65 years. And that's not only just the Army. It's the telescope on Mauna Kea and other things of that sort. That's one of the biggest things that everybody is angry about, you know.

And, Colonel, I'm going to share with you, although we're talking about the Makua, KTA, and Kawaihoa, I want to tell you some things that some don't know; okay?

My 'ohana is from an ahupua'a called Kawaihapai. That's where the Dillingham Airfield is situated. And in 1940, through executive order, my 'ohana and others that were there had to leave. They were given -- they had to start all over from scratch. And I will also say this. They did for each parcel give some kind of compensation, but it was atake it or leave it.

But when World War II was supposed to be over, landowners not only at Kawaihapai, but all over, like Pohakuloa, that had Native Hawaiians residing there, and they -- they lived on the land and they own them, was supposed to be given back.

But at that time, they were very racially prejudice. Only Caucasian peoples, excuse my language, but haole people like the Morgan family got their land back, and the Hawaiian owners of such, they was turned over to what became Territory of Hawaii lands. From there, it became state lands.

That's -- that's one of another things that a lot of us that have deep ties at specific areas are very, very angry about. And our kupunas didn't want to go through that heartbreak, so they kept it quiet for us. And we had to learn and revive them when their time was passed. Okay? But I will tell you how you got Fort DeRussy and La Pietra. Because of Dillingham. They made a land swap using lands from Kawaihoa and Pukea to get Fort DeRussy with the Army. And because they gave a small parcel on Dillingham Airfield, now called Kawaihapai Airfield, because his son went to war, and he wanted -- that was the disclaimer. Rename the airfield from Mokuleia Field to Dillingham Field.

But many of us served that did almost the same thing, like myself. So that's my thing I have to share with you. Thank you, Trisha.

## Thomas T. Shirai Jr.

Yeah. I understood -- I understood very much let everybody speak because they never have a chance yesterday. So I'm glad that they had a chance to say something. All I going do is just recap little bit, because I'm trying to make it as brief as possible. I'm going to talk about a specific training area we got in this.

Yes, I am a decorated Coast Guardsman, a very decorated one for first -- for first responder search and rescue. If you go to uscg.mil, I'm one of 270 recipients of the Coast Guard medal, which is in the same category as a silver star and all those other high-ranking awards, so number 11th ranking medal.

Okay. I have to say this. My family was one that originated where Dillingham Airfield is situated, Ahupua'a Kawaihapai. And in 1940 during World War II, an executive order took the land away -- not only there, but many places. And they had less than a month to start life all over from scratch. And some made it; some didn't. My family did, and that's the house I still reside, because my girlfriends work hard and knew what they had to do. Okay?

After World War II, that was supposed to revert back to those landowners, like at Makua and Kawaihapai, where my family from. But instead, what happened was they were very racially prejudiced at that time.

People like the Morgan Ranch got -- non-Hawaiians, haoles that had land on military installations that had been made, were given back their lands while the Hawaiian people, it was given to the Territory of Hawai'i and then later state of Hawai'i. And then it became recreational use, whereas my grandfather and his predecessors, that was all prime agriculture land.

And so also, I have mixed feelings, because I served in the Coast Guard, and I didn't know nothing until after I graduated from high school and came back to Hawai'i. The biggest grip I have for being in solidarity is there needs to be a fairness. One dollar for 65 years is not right at all. You know, this also applies to the telescopes on Mauna Kea, you know. That already is -- you lit the fuse to all of us getting very and extremely angry.

I want to talk about now for what -- for any more training area. In the 1940s, they had pillboxes going around the island as a shore defense. One of those shore defense was at Kawaihoa, and it was at a very important heiau.

Site No. 240 documented in Sites of Oahu by the Bishop Museum, Kahuku Weluwelu heiau. It is a navigation heiau and multi-purpose heiau. And they built a pillbox right up on that, because they thought was a pile of rocks. And I just throwing that out. It's documented. It's in Around Oahu by Ian Beckett. There's a picture of it. But I'm sure that the military since the 1940s have improved on that sort of aspect.

So that's what I wanted to share about a specific area.

And also, please, Colonel, because I serve on neighborhood board, got some bonfires at army beach, Kawaihapai army beach by the airfield, you know. Tell them they need to leave their baggage at home when they come to Hawai'i. We understand and appreciate they serving, but, please, you know, that is not right at all. And it gets brought up time and time again at the neighborhood board.

So that's what I wanted to share. ... Okay. Mahalo. Good night.

## Allison Shiyozaki

"Aloha. My name is Allison Shiyozaki, I'm a resident of Hilo on Moku o Keawe. I'm strongly opposed, strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military, the worst polluter in the world, to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. I don't see the military giving back. So army has wrongfully leased land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expiring 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. I also believe the military who so much of our budget should do their due diligence to spend part of that budget restoring those lands putting money towards clean up of the environmental damage that they have done. Again, I strongly oppose the extension of the leases to the military mahalo "

## Alana Siaris

Aloha, my name is Alana Siaris and I am a resident of the Kalauao ahupua'a on O'ahu island. I am writing to provide testimony against the continued Army training and land retention on O'ahu. As a child of Hawai'i, I have seen first hand the disruptive and obtrusive presence of the military in Hawai'i. In 1893, Hawai'i was forcefully and illegally overthrown and taken by the United States of America. The ongoing and growing presence of the U.S. in Hawai'i continues to dispossess natives from their ancestral lands. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

With the rate of homelessness on O'ahu steadily rising, the threat of climate change more profound than ever, and the fight for human and indigenous rights around the world, it is time to reevaluate the need for these lands by the U.S. military, and the devastating impacts this kind of agreement has on the natural resources and citizens of this once sovereign nation. The decisions made today will impact the generations of Hawai'i for years to come. Mahalo me ke aloha.

## Jennifer Silva

Our island of Oahu has sacrificed for too many years by allowing the military to lease these precious lands. The lands have not been cared for or respected the way our kupuna would have wanted. I would like to see the military clean up these leased lands before returning them to the communities they are in. Our communities need these lands and should be given the opportunity to use them. Please allow the leases for these lands the military have possessed to expire. It is the honorable thing to do.

## Karla Silva-Park

For generations the military has had unlimited access, for a gross amount of money, to our native lands and have caused irreversible damage. I strongly oppose any lease to military whether compensated or not. It is time for the military to take responsibility for the damage caused and work to repair what has been done. Our land and our people have been victimized for far too long. The land my 'ohana and ancestors once had is gone, I refuse to let that happen to my keiki. It is our kuleana to protect and uplift our resources so that our community can begin to heal. Extending any lease will prohibit this from happening. It is time to return our lands.

Joseph K. Simpliciano Jr.

Dear Army Personnel, Aloha, I am a native Hawaiian and a retired infantryman. I firmly oppose the Army's retention of any "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, which is in the Stewardship of the State of Hawaii due to the unlawful and illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. I also strongly support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. I am also a lifelong resident of Wai'anae. The word Wai'anae means "water mullet" or "mullet water" the history of Wai'anae is that we were once the breadbasket of Oahu, but due to the theft of our water, we can no longer sustain ourselves. Our mountains are no longer green and teaming with wildlife. Our oceans are missing a plethora of native marine life due to the cut-off of stream water. Makua has 16 million gallons of water per day, which is more than enough to give back to our streams. The beachfront of the proposed Makua Alternative is flawed and should not be up for discussion because there is federally protected prehistoric tadpole shrimp in the area. Tadpole shrimp is a federally protected species, and this is throughout the United States. To have another federal entity not acknowledge this is puzzling. The History of Makua is also a concern as the Army has not completed its study on its impact on the wildlife that locals gather to eat. There has never been a study published, nor have there been any conservation efforts in conjunction with the State to protect the native species that call Makua's streams Caution-home. I have personally picked up casings from 50 cal to 7.62mm and 5.56mm. I have also picked up 5.56mm blanks used in training, which are visible on the beachside and dirt roads. The discussion about finding dunnage at Makua beach made its way to the Waianae Neighborhood Board on more than one occasion. I understand that the Military has readiness. Still, there are already areas in use that the Community does not have a problem with the Army using, such as Bellows for any beach exercises or maneuvering. Additionally, Schofield has multiple ranges. Since there is no longer KoleKole pass, there is absolutely no reason this area isn't taken advantage of. The Wai'anae Community has been at the mercy of the Military since the World Wars. As noted in the Bishop Museum, Hawaiians had their titled lands stolen by the Military, and sometimes at gunpoint, Cultural heiaus were destroyed and used for target practice. The remnants still litter our coastline. The Wai'anae Community would like to have the beachfront back so that they can restore its natural beauty: they would like to implement traditional practices and teachings. They would also like to become stewards of the Streams, land, and ocean. It would only seem right to allow this to happen because the Military has broken so many promises and cannot use the Makua Valley as a range successfully. It is a waste of taxpayers' money to continue to operate this Range. ATI was created as a broad category to refer to all cultural resources significant to native, aboriginal, or local groups. These resources include, but are not limited to, landscapes, sacred sites, shrines, and "property[ies] of traditional religious and cultural importance" (PTRCIs) whether or not they have been formally evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HONOLULU DISTRICT. Environmental Impact Study, July 2021. Caution-http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc\_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf PDF file. Pg. 3-4 These affiliations also illustrate how Native Hawaiian spirituality and religion are intertwined with the natural environment and woven into an intricate yet loosely defined relationship among the land, landforms, plants, water, ocean, sky (cosmology), mountains, and all things natural and supernatural. Please refer to the Hawaiian story of our creation. To the west of Farrington Highway lies the Muliwai. This State-owned land at Makua Military Reservation lies in the Kea'au aquifer system in Wai'anae hydrologic unit, with a sustainable yield of 16 million gallons per day. No public water wells are documented within one mile of the State-owned lands at MMR. Five wells were noted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) within the State-owned lands. Due to their proximity to the shoreline, all of these wells likely have high salinity. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HONOLULU DISTRICT. Environmental Impact Study, July 2021. 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Environmental Impact Study, July 2021. Caution-http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc\_Library/2021-07-23-OA-EISPN-Army-Training-Land-Retention-on-Oahu.pdf PDF file. Pg. 3-4 Pg 3-14 Please return areas of Makua to its lineal descendants as they have their paperwork from Kamehameha to show actual and legal ownership. Mahalo, Joseph K. Simpliciano Jr.

**From:** [Carmen Guzman](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Training Land Retention Oahu Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:50:04 AM

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Dear Army Personnel,

Aloha, I am a native Hawaiian and a retired infantryman. I firmly oppose the Army's retention of any "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, which is in the Stewardship of the State of Hawaii due to the unlawful and illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. I also strongly support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands.

I am also a lifelong resident of Wai'anae. The word Wai'anae means "water mullet" or "mullet water" the history of Wai'anae is that we were once the breadbasket of Oahu, but due to the theft of our water, we can no longer sustain ourselves. Our mountains are no longer green and teaming with wildlife. Our oceans are missing a plethora of native marine life due to the cut-off of stream water. Makua has 16 million gallons of water per day, which is more than enough to give back to our streams.

The beachfront of the proposed Makua Alternative is flawed and should not be up for discussion because there is federally protected prehistoric tadpole shrimp in the area. Tadpole shrimp is a federally protected species, and this is throughout the United States. To have another federal entity not acknowledge this is puzzling. The History of Makua is also a concern as the Army has not completed its study on its impact on the wildlife that locals gather to eat. There has never been a study published, nor have there been any conservation efforts in conjunction with the State to protect the native species that call Makua's streams Caution-home.

I have personally picked up casings from 50 cal to 7.62mm and 5.56mm. I have also picked up 5.56mm blanks used in training, which are visible on the beachside and dirt roads. The discussion about finding dunnage at Makua beach made its way to the Waianae Neighborhood Board on more than one occasion.

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The Wai'anae Community has been at the mercy of the Military since the World Wars. As noted in the Bishop Museum, Hawaiians had their titled lands stolen by the Military, and sometimes at gunpoint, Cultural heiaus were destroyed and used for target practice. The



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The Wai'anae Community would like to have the beachfront back so that they can restore its natural beauty. they would like to implement traditional practices and teachings. They would also like to become stewards of the Streams, land, and ocean. It would only seem right to allow this to happen because the Military has broken so many promises and cannot use the Makua Valley as a range successfully. It is a waste of taxpayers' money to continue to operate this Range.

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Please return areas of Makua to its lineal descendants as they have their paperwork from Kamehameha to show actual and legal ownership.

Mahalo,  
Joseph K. Simpliciano Jr.

## Nicholas Smith

Hello,

I write regarding the proposed renewal of the US Army's 65-year lease of land on Wahiawā, Mākua and Kahuku that is used for military training.

The use of this land for military purposes will bring nothing but destruction to the land and waters of Hawaii. Immense destruction has been caused thus far, in part by the military's actions, to the sealife and bird species in Hawaii, which seem to constantly go extinct, the use of sacred sites as targets, such as Kaho'olawe and in Western O'ahu, as well as the ecosystem in general.

Please consider the impact this project will have.

Kind regards,Nicholas Smith

**From:** [Nicholas Smith](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] concerns with lease renewal on O'ahu  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:07:55 AM

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Hello,

I write regarding the proposed renewal of the US Army's 65-year lease of land on Wahiawā, Mākua and Kahuku that is used for military training.

The use of this land for military purposes will bring nothing but destruction to the land and waters of Hawaii. Immense destruction has been caused thus far, in part by the military's actions, to the sealife and bird species in Hawaii, which seem to constantly go extinct, the use of sacred sites as targets, such as Kaho'olawe and in Western O'ahu, as well as the ecosystem in general.

Please consider the impact this project will have.

Kind regards,  
Nicholas Smith

## Samantha Snively

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The U.S. military is occupying lands stolen in an illegal overthrow and occupation of a sovereign nation. The U.S. military has not stewarded these lands well while they were tenants, and have contributed to environmental destruction and degradation, as well as generations of community harm. Kanaka Maoli are best positioned to steward their own land. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in

the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. The U.S. military also needs to pay today's fair market price for the lands they lease. Continuing to pay nominal lease prices encourages further environmental destruction. A price doesn't just reflect current value, it also sets expectations about behavior based on that value. We treat cheaply what we get cheaply. So if the lands are so valuable to the military, they need to be paying lease rates that reflect that value, not the \$1 per parcel justified through illegal occupation.

**From:** Samantha Snively [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 14:03  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Samantha Snively

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Samantha Snively
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Seattle, Washington 98106
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	The U.S. military is occupying lands stolen in an illegal overthrow and occupation of a sovereign nation. The U.S. military has not stewarded these lands well while they were tenants, and have contributed to environmental destruction and degradation, as well as generations of community harm. Kanaka Maoli are best positioned to steward their own land.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of

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same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiioa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL COMMENTS HERE.

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## ‘Ilikea Snow

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from

industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

**From:** 'Ilikea Snow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 15:20  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - 'Ilikea Snow

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	'Ilikea Snow
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kahuku, Hawaii 96731
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho A Kanaka Maoli
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have

also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that

disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to



which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

## Jess Sobocinski

Aloha. My name is Jess Sobocinski and I'm a resident of Hawaii and I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. It is my belief that an extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. And destroy and disrupt the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and as well as disrupt the lives of the local community. These are things I think need to be heavily considered and closely examined as part of the environmental impact statement. My deepest wish is that when the leases expire in 2029 that's this land should be restored to the public and be available for public use for restoration and for conservation. Mahalo

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Rachel Solís

Please Please consider giving Makua back to the people of Oahu. It's such a special place not only for its scenic beauty, but for its cultural significance and importance to local people. Oahu has very little open space left and putting this land back in the hands of Kama'aina would have huge impacts on recreation, housing and farming. Space is a major issue on this overpopulated island and having Makua back could allow us all to spread out a little, grow the food we need to become a more self sufficient island, help take the load off other areas that are way too densely populated. Makua deserves to be used as more than a training ground for military personnel. Giving the lack of resources on an island, specifically LAND I hope the army will consider doing its training somewhere that land is not such a limited commodity.  
Mahalo,Rachel Solís Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rachel Solís](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] NO to renewing Makua land lease  
**Date:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 10:37:39 AM

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Please Please consider giving Makua back to the people of Oahu. It's such a special place not only for its scenic beauty, but for its cultural significance and importance to local people. Oahu has very little open space left and putting this land back in the hands of Kama'aina would have huge impacts on recreation, housing and farming. Space is a major issue on this overpopulated island and having Makua back could allow us all to spread out a little, grow the food we need to become a more self sufficient island, help take the load off other areas that are way too densely populated. Makua deserves to be used as more than a training ground for military personnel. Giving the lack of resources on an island, specifically LAND I hope the army will consider doing its training somewhere that land is not such a limited commodity.

Mahalo,  
Rachel Solís  
Sent from my iPhone

## Ikaika Solomon

My name is Ikaika Solomon. I am a resident of Waianae. I am strongly opposed to the extension of a military lease on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats and Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands on the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029 this land should be mainly restored to the public and all you \* Europeans, go back to where the \* you from \* the haoles

## Jincy Songer

Hello, my name is Jincy Songer and I am a resident of Tampa, FL. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases would allow for further destruction of the natural environment, native species and land animals, and further disrupt the lives of the indigenous communities who are from the land. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state since 1964. When the lease ends in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you.

## JoNelle Sood

Aloha! My name is JoNelle Sood. I'm Native Hawaiian born and raised in California. I'm writing to provide my feedback and saying the military should not renew their lease. As you've heard in the zoom meetings the feedback is synchronously no. It is documented and publicly announced by President Bill Clinton that Hawaii was illegally occupied. We saw with Kaho'olawe that the military did not hold up their end of the bargain with regards to caring and restoring the land upon departure. There is history and evidence that the misuse of Hawaii lands are undeniably criminal. The land belongs to the community, for the families, for natural resources. Please return that land back to the natives so we can continue to thrive and educate not only our children but all the visitors and tourists that come to the land. It's time for the US to hear, respect, and act upon the many voices that are saying no. Mahalo, JoNelle Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

**From:** [JoNelle Sood](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox](#) [NEPA Comments](#); [JoNelle Sood](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Mākua  
**Date:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 5:20:00 AM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha! My name is JoNelle Sood. I'm Native Hawaiian born and raised in California. I'm writing to provide my feedback and saying the military should not renew their lease. As you've heard in the zoom meetings the feedback is synchronously no. It is documented and publicly announced by President Bill Clinton that Hawaii was illegally occupied. We saw with **Kaho'olawe** that the military did not hold up their end of the bargain with regards to caring and restoring the land upon departure. There is history and evidence that the misuse of Hawaii lands are undeniably criminal. The land belongs to the community, for the families, for natural resources. Please return that land back to the natives so we can continue to thrive and educate not only our children but all the visitors and tourists that come to the land. It's time for the US to hear, respect, and act upon the many voices that are saying no.

Mahalo, JoNelle

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone < Caution-<https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/?src=iOS> >

## Jasmine Soriano

This is unfair for the hawaiian native land that is already there. Occupation by military is not necessary.

## Chays Souza

I cant even go swimming or diving without finding bullets and shells in mākua. And to know i cant freely access the valley because of your live ordanances is rediculous. You need to leave and take all your opala with you!

## Phoebe Sprague

Aloha. My name is Phoebe Sprague and I'm a resident of New Jersey. The town of Manahawkin, and I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. And I think that is absolutely ridiculous that you people take over this beautiful land to destroy it when it wasn't yours to begin with. Stop. End this now.

## Phoebe Spague

Aloha. My name is Phoebe Spague and I'm a resident of Manahawkin, New Jersey, I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. This is not okay to be destroying environmental areas in Hawaii, when it was not our land to begin I have family who lives in Hawaii and they do not deserve this treatment, nor do other Native people living there, or the environment or animals or anything that you're such doing--it is not our land. And you need to end this lease and go back to the United States, the actual United States--not somewhere that you call U.S.--Oh wait, a nice that also. Stay on the mainland. Mahalo

## Mallory Spencer

This land does not belong to the military, but belongs to the indigenous people of Hawaii. Leasing it , especially for a measly \$1, is thievery. The land was not given to the military, but was stolen by the military. Return the land.

## Regan Spencer

To whom it may concern,  
I write this email as my formal comment regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i. As an aside, I question why the Submit a Formal Comment link is inactive, since the Federal Register surely has a legal obligation to accurately track the number of public comments on this issue.  
But to the point. The U.S. Army has invited these public comments. The Army will present its EIS in hopes to push through this expedited lease renewal. EIS is a deeply ironic and brazenly bold term to use here. Testing explosives leaves quite an impact, does it not? I think the Army owes the truth to the American people, as they have voluntarily opened a public discussion with us about this issue. Military training and testing on O'ahu has caused not so much an impact but sheer devastation, desecration, and degradation. It has ripped apart the land, poisoned the ground, polluted the air, and violated the spirit of the Hawaiian people.  
The Army are guests on this land. This fact is proven by the very fact that they LEASE the land. And for only a dollar, lease is a pretty strong word. Steal, rob, pilfer, loot. The American way. Look, you know it's wrong, even though I know you believe fundamentally in its necessity. That the ends justify the means. That we really do have the luxury of choosing a lesser evil. We do what we must to protect our own, yes? I know as a civilian I will never, ever have any idea about the specific advantages a mid-Pacific outpost does for our military. I know I could never speak to you on that level, to sway your opinion regarding a military situation. IF we are ONLY speaking about a military situation.  
But it's more than that and no one can possibly refute that. It's an entire nation of people we've displaced, attacked, and oppressed for our own benefit. We approach security as a zero-sum game, when safety is neither zero-sum nor a game. You lose the heart of the American people when we can so clearly see the violence, pain, and damage upon which our power is built. You lose the ends that supposedly justified such means. Because it's no longer security and freedom, it's aggression and oppression. It's feeling safe in this life and facing the bitter, bloody truth in the next.  
The Hawaiian people deserve freedom, as much as you or I. They deserve their country back. They deserve to have their land and resources returned to their stewardship, which is the only way the land will ever heal. They deserve our respect, honor, and love. They deserve our protection, and they deserve to protect themselves from us when our better angels have fallen behind our fear and greed.  
You want security but you contribute to one of the most destabilizing global forces we face, environmental degradation. You value freedom but sacrifice morality for it.  
Find another way. You've got to find a way to balance security and morality. Surely, SURELY, the "greatest" military this planet has ever seen could come up with a solution. Surely we have enough faith in our brightest minds, our strongest soldiers, our most patriotic leaders to come up with tomorrow's solution to today's mess. Humanity's answer to save our souls, not just our country. I love my country, and I stand with Hawai'i, and I don't believe we have to choose between those.  
Thank you for your time.Sincerely,Regan Spencer

**From:** [Regan Spencer](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Formal Comment re: Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i  
**Date:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 23:02:09 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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To whom it may concern,

I write this email as my formal comment regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i. As an aside, I question why the Submit a Formal Comment link is inactive, since the Federal Register surely has a legal obligation to accurately track the number of public comments on this issue.

But to the point. The U.S. Army has invited these public comments. The Army will present its EIS in hopes to push through this expedited lease renewal. EIS is a deeply ironic and brazenly bold term to use here. Testing explosives leaves quite an impact, does it not? I think the Army owes the truth to the American people, as they have voluntarily opened a public discussion with us about this issue. Military training and testing on O'ahu has caused not so much an impact but sheer devastation, desecration, and degradation. It has ripped apart the land, poisoned the ground, polluted the air, and violated the spirit of the Hawaiian people.

The Army are guests on this land. This fact is proven by the very fact that they LEASE the land. And for only a dollar, lease is a pretty strong word. Steal, rob, pilfer, loot. The American way.

Look, you know it's wrong, even though I know you believe fundamentally in its necessity. That the ends justify the means. That we really do have the luxury of choosing a lesser evil. We do what we must to protect our own, yes? I know as a civilian I will never, ever have any idea about the specific advantages a mid-Pacific outpost does for our military. I know I could never speak to you on that level, to sway your opinion regarding a military situation. IF we are ONLY speaking about a military situation.

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way the land will ever heal. They deserve our respect, honor, and love. They deserve our protection, and they deserve to protect themselves from us when our better angels have fallen behind our fear and greed.

You want security but you contribute to one of the most destabilizing global forces we face, environmental degradation. You value freedom but sacrifice morality for it.

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I love my country, and I stand with Hawai'i, and I don't believe we have to choose between those.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Regan Spencer

--  
Regan Spencer  
She/Her (what's this?) < Caution-<https://www.mypronouns.org/> >



## Geraldine Spiegle

This is ethically wrong. The military has no right to extended their lease in Hawai'i while millions of Hawaiians are being forced to abandon their homeland. The military, the US Government, does not care for Hawaiians or their cultures, all they care about is land and power. Truly distasteful.

## Nicole Squassoni

I am opposed to the military continuing to occupy this land and believe that it should be returned to the native people of Oahu.

## Malika Steen

As an ally to native Hawaiians who are deserving of the right to autonomy over their historical and cultural lands, I am expressing dissent towards the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural resources of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The Army has wrongfully and immorally leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964.

This display of thinly veiled colonialism and imperialist motive enables rampant overexploitation of native lands in the midst of environmental, public health, and human rights crises. Indigenous people and native Hawaiian communities bear the burdens of these harmful consequences with no commitment to actionable and sustainable accountability from the military forces causing them. I am strongly advocating for the land to be immediately restored to the public when the leases expire in the year 2029. Finally, I urge decision-makers to prioritize the sustainability of all life on Earth over short-lived monetary profit that only serves to benefit a select few at the expense of native Hawaiian communities.

## Malika Steen

Aloha,  
My name is Malika Steen and I am a resident of Los Angeles, California. As an ally to native Hawaiians who are deserving of the right to autonomy over their historical and cultural lands, I am contacting you to express dissent towards the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural resources of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The Army has wrongfully and immorally leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. This display of thinly veiled colonialism and imperialist motive enables the rampant overexploitation of native lands in the midst of environmental, public health, and human rights crises. Indigenous people and native Hawaiian communities bear the burdens of these harmful consequences with no commitment to actionable and sustainable accountability from the military forces causing them. I am strongly advocating for the land to be immediately restored to the public when the leases expire in the year 2029. Finally, I urge decision-makers to prioritize the sustainability of all life on Earth over short-lived industrial profit that only serves to benefit a select few at the expense of native Hawaiian communities. Sincerely, Malika Steen

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**From:** Bugala, Amy L CIV USARMY (USA)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:56  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Cc:** Wahl, Gregory T CIV USARMY USAG (USA); Pate, Daisy Berbert CIV USARMY CEPOH (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Opposing O'ahu ATLR EIS (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS Comments

**From:** Malika [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:38 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>; USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments <usarmy.wheeler.id-pacific.mbx.nepa-comments1@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposing O'ahu ATLR EIS

Aloha,

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Finally, I urge decision-makers to prioritize the sustainability of all life on Earth over short-lived industrial profit that only serves to benefit a select few at the expense of native Hawaiian communities.

Sincerely,

Malika Steen

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## A.L. Steiner

As you know, the leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaihoa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation were given away for free, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel for 65 years!

The three areas on Oahu are one-third of the 18,060 federal and state lands used for military training on the island, while the 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa are 17% of the 133,000 acres that comprise the largest military training area in the state and in the Pacific region. Residents are subjected to a daily dose of the U.S. military build-up for what the Indo-Pacific command is calling "our enemy China." We know what happens when the U.S. tries to resolve disputes through military action ♦ millions of persons dead and wounded, including tens of thousands of U.S. military, as evidenced by the wars in Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Ultimately disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue, so the US military MUST STOP SPENDING trillions on weapons that ultimately do not solve the situation. Hawai'i should be known as an area of peace and dialogue using the Hawaiian technique of "ho'oponopono" ♦ rather than as a base for projecting the U.S. propensity for killing over using diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries.

A first necessary step is to reduce the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii by the State of Hawai'i refusing to re-lease 30,000 acres currently used by the U.S. military. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration in cancelling this inequitable use of our lands NOW and forever.

## Matthew Stelmach

Please evaluate the impact of current and future invasive species introduced to O'ahu as a result of the use of these training areas. In particular the introduction of Devil weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) <https://www.oahuisc.org/devil-weed/> and similar future introductions. Please include minimization measures to reduce the likelihood of future introductions.

## megan stephenson

As a former resident of Hawaii and a US citizen that cares about the environment, I strongly oppose the Army Training Land Retention at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu. The land is illegally occupied, as admitted in the Apology Resolution, and the military training is causing irreversible destruction to the land, which should be used for Native Hawaiian homestead land anyway. I ask that the military withdraws from all of these training areas and return the land to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

## Judith Stetson

I live in Woods Hole on Cape Cod in Massachusetts where an active military base sits on top of our sole source aquifer. The military has long objected to our efforts to get it to stop polluting and poisoning our water supply. "Civilian Encroachment" it called our efforts even when we publicized the scientific studies to prove damage it was causing. I respectfully urge you not to renew the lease of your land for military use. Sincerely, Judith Stetson

**From:** [JUDITH STETSON](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Renewing land lease to the military  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 13:33:30 PM

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I live in Woods Hole on Cape Cod in Massachusetts where an active military base sits on top of our sole source aquifer. The military has long objected to our efforts to get it to stop polluting and poisoning our water supply.  
"Civilian Encroachment" it called our efforts even when we publicized the scientific studies to prove damage it was causing.  
I respectfully urge you not to renew the lease of your land for military use.  
Sincerely, Judith Stetson

Jessica Stevenson

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The military has wrongfully leased these lands since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public. Native Hawaiians deserve their land back. They deserve to be able to care for and cultivate the land that rightfully belongs to them.  
Jessica StevensonMillcreek, Utah

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**From:** Jessica Stevenson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 4:49  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Military lease extension

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The military has wrongfully leased these lands since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public. Native Hawaiians deserve their land back. They deserve to be able to care for and cultivate the land that rightfully belongs to them.

Jessica Stevenson  
Millcreek, Utah

## Sam Stiles

Hello there,I am emailing to let you know that I oppose the extension of military leases on the lands Mākua, Kahuka, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, damage the natural resources of these areas, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the states for one dollar since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public. Thank you for your time,Sam

**From:** Amanda Stiles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:43  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to extension of military leases

Hello there,

I am emailing to let you know that I oppose the extension of military leases on the lands Mākua, Kahuka, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, damage the natural resources of these areas, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the states for one dollar since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public.

Thank you for your time,  
Sam Stiles

## Robert Stiver

I endorse and support unreservedly the terrifically on-point oped by Ann Wright (Caution-<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com/?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3> < Caution-<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com/?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3> > ) . COL/Ms. Wright is a national/international treasure with a vision that is transcendent and is always searching for a way to peace and justice across many sectors and spheres of human endeavor. I want the military's footprint -- wide, deep, dangerous, far too often belligerent -- to be drawn down across the globe, including training areas in Hawaii that merely perpetuate its reach. I agree with COL Wright that, no matter what the price (\$1 per parcel or ...!), PTA et al should not be acceptable to or agreed to by the state of Hawaii, and the lands should be returned to (land-short) Hawaii and its people. We, the people, don't need and should not have an MIC (Military-Industrial Complex) that was warned against by, principally, DDEisenhower in the 1950s, but here we are, still.... We need a Peace-of-the-People Complex, led by a fully established, funded, and professionally managed Department of Peace at the cabinet level of the executive branch, WASHDC! COL Wright's prescription is one plank on the way to that elegant and essential goal! Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert H. Stiver [REDACTED]

**From:** [Robert H Stiver](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] "Island Voices" Oped by Ann Wright, Star-Advertiser of Sunday, 8-08-2021 -- My "public comment"  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 16:55:38 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert H. Stiver, [REDACTED]



## Robert Stiver

Please allow me to add one wordset to my comment/testimony. It is **bolded** below:

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert H. Stiver, [REDACTED]

On Sun, Aug 8, 2021 at 4:55 PM Robert H Stiver <[bobfromoahu@gmail.com](mailto:bobfromoahu@gmail.com)> wrote: I endorse and support unreservedly the terrifically on-point oped by Ann Wright

(Caution-<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com/?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3> < Caution-<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com/?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3> > ) .

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**From:** [Robert H Stiver](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: "Island Voices" Oped by Ann Wright, Star-Advertiser of Sunday, 8-08-2021 -- My "public comment"  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 8:09:43 AM

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Please allow me to add one wordset to my comment/testimony. It is **bolded** below:

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert H. Stiver, [REDACTED]

On Sun, Aug 8, 2021 at 4:55 PM Robert H Stiver <[bobfromoahu@gmail.com](mailto:bobfromoahu@gmail.com)> wrote: I endorse and support unreservedly the terrifically on-point oped by Ann Wright (Caution-<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com/?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3> < Caution-<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com/?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3> > ) .

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert H. Stiver, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Melanie Stockwell

Stop the occupation of Hawai'i

## Linsey Stokes

Hello,

My name is Linsey Stokes and I am writing to say that I strongly oppose the occupation of the United States military on Hawaiian land. Native Hawaiians deserve the right to their native homeland, and it is disgusting and despicable that the United States thinks it has any claim to their land at all. Native Hawaiians are being forced into poverty and have only a fraction of their rightful land that the United States has stolen. The military disrespects, bombs, and destroys the land and the creatures that live there, and it does not have the right to control any of the land of Hawaii. Remove yourselves from their land immediately. - Linsey Stokes

**From:** Linsey Stokes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 5:38  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Opposition of the Military Occupying Hawaiian Land

Hello,

My name is Linsey Stokes and I am writing to say that I strongly oppose the occupation of the United States military on Hawaiian land. Native Hawaiians deserve the right to their native homeland, and it is disgusting and despicable that the United States thinks it has any claim to their land at all. Native Hawaiians are being forced into poverty and have only a fraction of their rightful land that the United States has stolen. The military disrespects, bombs, and destroys the land and the creatures that live there, and it does not have the right to control any of the land of Hawaii. Remove yourselves from their land immediately.

- Linsey Stokes

## Taylor Stokes

Find & use land in other states. Oahu is crowded, give some land back!  
Thank you

## MELE STOKESBERRY

When the leases end in 2029, the State of Hawai'i should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers.

They have been given away for free for 65 years! The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaiiloa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation should be returned to Hawai'i.

Then, the military can negotiate fair and square with the people of Hawai'i, and we citizens of Hawai'i can be a partner in deciding on the uses of these extensive lands, which, by the way, are going to need a lot of clean up so the military had better start now.

## Mele Stokesberry

to usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil re Testimony on EIS scoping in re the re-leasing of military lands from the State of Hawai'i When the leases end in 2029, the State of Hawai'i should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers. They have been given away for free for 65 years! The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaihoa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation should be returned to Hawai'i. Then, the military can negotiate fair and square with the people of Hawai'i, and we citizens of Hawai'i can be a partner in deciding on the uses of these extensive lands, which, by the way, are going to need a lot of clean up from depleted uranium and other toxics on these battered and misused lands. Mele Stokesberry [REDACTED]

From: Mele Stokesberry  
To: USARMY Whetzel AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Testimony on EIS scoping  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:18:32 AM

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to usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil >  
re Testimony on EIS scoping in re the re-leasing of military lands from the State of Hawai'i

When the leases end in 2029, the State of Hawai'i should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers.

They have been given away for free for 65 years! The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaihoa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation should be returned to Hawai'i.

Then, the military can negotiate fair and square with the people of Hawai'i, and we citizens of Hawai'i can be a partner in deciding on the uses of these extensive lands, which, by the way, are going to need a lot of clean up from depleted uranium and other toxics on these battered and misused lands.

Mele Stokesberry  
[REDACTED]

## Mariette Strauss

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... These lands should be rightfully returned to the Hawaiian people. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already

disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Mariette Strauss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:47  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Mariette Strauss

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Mariette Strauss
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	New York, New York 10035
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	These lands should be rightfully returned to the Hawaiian people
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are



exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiioa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources

that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Hannah Streeter

Aloha. My name is Hannah Streeter and I very strongly oppose the extention of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. Extending these leases only serves to damage the beautiful habitat of Hawaii, destroying ecosystem and culture alike. The army has wrongfully leased these lands for \$1 since 1964, denying both land and compensation to the local population. In 2029 when the leases expire the land should be immediately restored to the public. I hope that you do so, and I hope it isn't too late to preserve the beautiful Hawaiian ecosystems that this occupation of the area and training exercises have damaged.

I-1661

## Hal Strough

Hello,  
Please discontinue the lease of land to the military.

I-1662

**From:** [Hal Strough](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.L.D.Land](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Military Land  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 4:16:08 AM

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Hello,

Please discontinue the lease of land to the military.

## Greta Stuart

Give Hawaiian land back to the Native Hawaiians!! It is disgusting that the military will spend billions of dollars on gear and weapons but will rent their testing land for ONE DOLLAR? What a slap in the face and a huge injustice to Hawaiians. Do better! Your people are very displeased with you!

**From:** [Greta Stuart](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:26:36 AM

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Give Hawaiian land back to the Native Hawaiians!! It is disgusting that the military will spend billions of dollars on gear and weapons but will rent their testing land for ONE DOLLAR? What a slap in the face and a huge injustice to Hawaiians. Do better! Your people are very displeased with you!

## Josiah Stuart

I am opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of the leases will allow and contribute to the military's further damage of the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiians plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

## Greg Sullivan

The US military needs to leave the Hawaiian lands to the Hawaiian people. Get off the land

## Alisha Summers

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... an extension of these leases will further allow the following: 1) the alienation of Kānaka Maoli from their ancestral lands; 2) the continued degradation of natural resources and ecosystems of these areas; and 3) the disruption of local communities. The military impacts the land & communities beyond the parcel boundaries which the military occupies. The EIS must address impacts throughout the watershed and should look at how watershed health can be restored through the "no action" alternative. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku. The military disregards indigenous people wherever they go. All of the testimonies I heard from the EIS public scoping days were opposed to the re-leasing of these lands. This is an opportunity to start addressing the wrongs and start to make steps to do what is right, what is ethical. As an asian/white settler, and as someone who was born and raised in Hawai‘i I acknowledge that this land belongs to Kānaka Maoli. The military is not entitled to this land and should return the land to the Hawaiian people.

From: Alisha Summers  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Alisha Summers  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 16:59:02 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Alisha Summers

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Honoulu, Hawaii 96816

I AM: A resident of O'ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

an extension of these leases will further allow the following: 1) the alienation of Kānaka Maoli from their ancestral lands; 2) the continued degradation of natural resources and ecosystems of these areas; and 3) the disruption of local communities. The military impacts the land & communities beyond the parcel boundaries which the military occupies. The EIS must address impacts throughout the watershed and should look at how watershed health can be restored through the "no action" alternative.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized

STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the



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These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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I-1675

presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

The military disregards indigenous people wherever they go. All of the testimonies I heard from the EIS public scoping days were opposed to the re-leasing of these lands. This is an opportunity to start addressing the wrongs and start to make steps to do what is right, what is ethical. As an asian/white settler, and as someone who was born and raised in Hawai'i I acknowledge that this land belongs to Kānaka Maoli. The military is not entitled to this land and should return the land to the Hawaiian people.

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Cognito Forms

12

I-1676



## Matthew Swalinkavich

I hear the bombing when with my family in Waimea. Depleted uranium continues to threaten residents. Fresh water lens is being drained and compromised by the military prioritizing use. The military presence absolutely jeopardizes residents of Hawai'i. Makes us a target. Distorts our economy, driving prices up for locals. Pollutes environment (US military is a top polluter entity). GET LOST. Stop stealing land. \$1 is a joke- Hawai'i is sacred, irreplaceable, home to endemic species, unique culture, and indigenous lives. US Army directly adversely impacts all of these top valued expressions of life. BEAT IT!!!

## L Swart

In regards to the continued use of the 6000 acres you use to conduct training exercises...I would ask not only that this activity is ceased and most importantly, that you spend the next 8 years cleaning the entire region to ensure that in the future, no citizens are harm by unexploded ordinance. Thank youL Swart

**From:** [Liysa Swart](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Bombing sacred lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 3:57:43 AM

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In regards to the continued use of the 6000 acres you use to conduct training excercises...I would ask not only that this activity is ceased and most importantly, that you spend the next 8 years cleaning the entire region to ensure that in the future, no citizens are harm by unexploded ordinance.

Thank you

L Swart

Amanda T

Hi!

My name is Amanda and I am a resident of New York. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will let the military further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

It is 2021. Do better.

Kindly,a concerned resident

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**From:** Aman T [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:06  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Do Not Extend the Lease

Hi!

My name is Amanda and I am a resident of New York. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will let the military further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public.

It is 2021. Do better.

Kindly,  
a concerned resident

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**From:** [Aman T](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Do Not Extend the Lease  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:05:58 AM

Hi!

My name is Amanda and I am a resident of New York. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā.

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It is 2021. Do better.

Kindly,  
a concerned resident

## Tanaka

"Hello, my name is [unintelligible] Tanaka and I would like to make a statement that I am against the renewed lease for the Army of Hawaiian land specifically Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. And I think that it should be returned to the Hawaiian people. And I think that it should be evaluated for its environmental impact, that it's had and that's what I believe should happen. Thank you very much. Mahalo "

## Drew Tandal

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It displaces and desecrates Hawaiian lands and Hawaiians themselves. Give the land back! Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Waiʻanae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through moʻolelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Waiʻanae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Drew Tandal  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:07  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Drew Tandal

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Drew Tandal
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	New York, New York 10031
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	It displaces and desecrates Hawaiian lands and Hawaiians themselves. Give the land back!
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON OʻAHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the

general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader

community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already

disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-

ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board

presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



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## Samantha Makahi Tanuvasa

Aloha. My name is Samantha Makahi Tanuvasa. I'm a resident of Eva, Oahu and I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the island on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands for an unreasonable amount of \$1 since 1964 when the lease is expiring 2029, the land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo



Jordyn Taylor

Hi,  
I am strongly opposed to extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kakuku, Wahawā.  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state since 1964. When these leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.  
Jordyn Taylor

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**From:** Jordyn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:22  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Stop Colonizing

Hi,  
  
I am strongly opposed to extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kakuku, Wahawā.  
  
An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.  
  
The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state since 1964. When these leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.  
  
Jordyn Taylor

June Taylor

Return lands to indigenous Hawaiians.

**From:** [June Taylor](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oppose Military's Continued Use of Ancestral Indigenous Lands  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 14:51:55 PM

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Return lands to indigenous Hawaiians.

## Kelsey Taylor

We are at a global tipping point. The actions we take right now can ensure a better future. Alternatively, we can ensure our own demise. I firmly believe that expanding the military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā will contribute to that demise.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage natural resources. It will destroy the habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, both of which are crucial to the ecosystem. This will also continue to disrupt the lives of the local communities.

The Army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is up in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Stop the endless damage to our planet and native Hawaii. The natives of this land do not deserve to endure the trauma of the US military continuing to bomb their land for sport. This is contributing the destruction of our planet and it must end. Do the right thing. We will all be watching.

## Renee Tedder

I opposed the continued occupation of Hawaii and the renewal of the military's lease. The continued use/testing of bombs in the area is detrimental to the sensitive environment as well as affecting the indigenous populations. The contracts do not even benefit the locals monetarily as the lease fee is almost non-existent. So this is only a harm to the environment and community. Hawaii has a unique and biologically significant flora and fauna population that is certainly impacted by noise pollution from bombing and military activity as well as the actual physical effects of destroyed ecosystems. This is unacceptable. Sacred places to indigenous people are also being affected by this continued occupation and it can not continue in modern day. Please stop destroying the planet by attacking fragile ecosystems and destroying native lands.

## Christopher Telomen

Aloha. My name is Christopher Telomen and I'm a former resident of Oahu. I attended UH Manoa for five years. I currently live in California. I travel back and forth frequently to visit friends and family. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases would allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continuously disrupt the lives of a local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. Upon the leases expiring 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you. Have a great evening.

## Arianna Terlitsky

Aloha,

My name is Arianna Terlitsky- I am a resident of Erie, PA. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa.

Extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. In this time of climate change it is important to protect our environments and encourage biodiversity. And one of the best ways to do so is to give land back to those native to it so they may lead us on the best practices to save and nurture it.

The Army has wrongfully leased this lands from the state for only one dollar since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be returned to the public.

## Hannah Thao

Hello,

My name is Hannah Thao. I am a resident of El Cajon, California, and I strongly oppose to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. As well as the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and fauna. The occupation of the military continually disrupts the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you for your time,  
Hannah Thao

**From:** HANNAH THAO [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:50  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] The Occupation of O'ahu

Hello,

My name is Hannah Thao. I am a resident of El Cajon, California, and I strongly oppose to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. As well as the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and fauna. The occupation of the military continually disrupts the lives of the local community.

The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Thank you for your time,

Hannah Thao

Santwan Thomas

DEOCCUPY HAWAII!

**From:** [santwan.thomas](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] FREE HAWAII  
**Date:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 1:47:57 AM

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DEOCCUPY HAWAII!

## Steven Thomas

Aloha Mai Kakou,

‘O wau ‘o Steven Nāwai‘awa‘awaakaua Thomas,

Aloha Everyone,

I am Steven Nāwai‘awa‘awaakaua Thomas.

I am descended from through the line of King Liloa and the progenitors of the House of Keawe. I have lived in Central O‘ahu my entire life and I have experienced the colonization of mind and culture.

My kupuna have been made to accept the criminal act of the stealing of our country by your country in "violation of treaties and of international law" as stated in the Apology Bill of 1993 (Public Law 103-150).

Subsequently, we have been made to accept the so-called "necessity" of leasing thousands of acres of our land for military training purposes.

I say enough already. Go blow up your own country. Stop killing and desecrating mine.

I have been in Makua Valley. The mana of our ancestors is still there and still very strong but the ‘āina is crying out. Crying out for me to do something.... say SOMETHING!

But I fear this is merely a formality and the military/government machine will do whatever they want anyway.

I’ve heard the word "compromise" come up with regard to similar land lease issues in the past here in Hawaii, but I’ve learned that it usually results in some kind of a token offer in return for continuing on with the originally planned use... most times, our people are outnumbered by those who have absolutely no knowledge of what they’re doing to the land.

So again, I would urge you to take your military training back to your country.

My people still have a chance to resuscitate this ‘āina, and we are the only ones who inherently know how to do this. It’s in our bones. But....

America

"He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauā he kanaka"

The land is chief, the people are the servants  
Mahalo

## Summer-Solstice Thomas

This land belongs to Native Hawaiians, not the US army. Continuing to occupy this land only perpetuates settler colonialism and its associated harm and violence. The US military should either pay the millions of dollars this land is worth (to the local government or in the form of social programs and reparations to local peoples) or get out of Hawaii. Preferably, the US military can just get out of Hawaii--that land does not belong to the US, or at least it shouldn't. Americans stole it from indigenous peoples and in this modern era we should be able to recognize that and do what is right. Leave Hawaii!!

## Kelsey Thornberry

I strongly oppose the future use of these lands and waters by the military and I believe it is past time for this land to be relinquished back to the community. I will never forget the summer of 2016 when we were camping and swimming at Makua and my cousins who were diving discovered an unexploded ordnance. A team was sent out to detonate the device. The loud explosion and dead marine life left floating is an image that will always be burned into my mind. It is time for the Military to allow our lands and waters to rest and heal.

## Carol Titcomb

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... They don't belong to the Army. Today is the birthday of our last Queen, who was treated dismissively because she was a Native Hawaiian and a woman, overthrown by a cabal of Missionary descendants eager to cast off the Native inhabitants and annex to the United States in order to wrest control of our lands. The overthrow was illegal and recognized as such. It is high time that things were set to right. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically



privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromalaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Waiʻanae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

From: Carol Titcomb  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Carol Titcomb  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 18:33:37 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the Oʻahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Carol Titcomb
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	
I RESIDE IN:	Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786
I AM:	A resident of Oʻahu A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	They don't belong to the Army. Today is the birthday of our last Queen, who was treated dismissively because she was a Native Hawaiian and a woman, overthrown by a cabal of Missionary descendants eager to cast off the Native inhabitants and annex to the United States in order to wrest control of our lands. The overthrow was illegal and recognized as such. It is high time that things were set to right.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent

RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF  
LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY  
TRAINING PURPOSES.

illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the

negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*,

Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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## John Tittle

My objection to the contract renewal lies in the environmental impacts which include: the destruction of ecosystems/ protected species and the usage of solvents, fuels, explosives, chemical weapons, heavy metals, radioactive substances. Large scale construction has obviously also had a negative impact on this land. Being that 5% of O'ahu land is owned by the military, one would think they would pay for it at a reasonable price, thereby using that money to assist with the obvious issues related to housing and hunger that affect this island.

## Tlaloc Tokuda

i would like an independent body monitoring the comments mailed in. Having the military as guardians of letters/emails on what we think of the military is like the fox guarding the hen house and it seems less transparent. Sending feedback to the military doesn't brood any confidence for a free and uncensored community process. So i think letters should be sent to an independent body. I say NO to extending military leased land on Hawaii. This is a bad idea. The military has more than its fair share of land in Hawaii and i know what the Hawaiian monarchs thought (bayonet diplomacy) of the military and i know they are rolling over in their graves with the amount of land the military already controls. A prime example is Kaho'olawe. The military used it as a bombing site and they still haven't cleaned up the ordnances in all these years - all we get is military promises but little action! The army brings death and destruction in many forms. Civil Beat reported: "U.S. military bases in Hawaii dumped more thanhalf a million pounds of nitrate compounds — toxic chemicals commonly found in wastewater treatment plants, fertilizers and explosives — into the ocean in 2019". Then there's the Navy's Red Hill fuel tank that leaked 27,000 gallons of jet fuel and a quick cover-up followed. Capt. Mike Williamson said shortly after the spill "I have high degree of confidence that petroleum products from this incident have not migrated from the Red Hill tank facility towards the Red Hill well aquifer," However the Honolulu Board of Water Supply said the contamination did in fact hit the aquifer. I could give many more examples but i don't want to waste my time or effort sending info to the military which has little transparency and acts in its own self interest. I think its a bad idea to lend, lease, give any Hawaiian land to the military anymore!!! tlaloc tokudaKailua Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Tlaloc Tokuda](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#); [Rep. Kai Kahele](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No to more military land  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:49:32 AM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil >

i would like an independent body monitoring the comments mailed in. Having the military as guardians of letters/emails on what we think of the military is like the fox guarding the hen house and it seems less transparent. Sending feedback to the military doesn't brood any confidence for a free and uncensored community process. So i think letters should be sent to an independent body.

I say NO to extending military leased land on Hawaii. This is a bad idea. The military has more than its fair share of land in Hawaii and i know what the Hawaiian monarchs thought (bayonet diplomacy) of the military and i know they are rolling over in their graves with the amount of land the military already controls. A prime example is Kaho'olawe. The military used it as a bombing site and they still haven't cleaned up the ordnances in all these years - all we get is military promises but little action! The army brings death and destruction in many forms. **Civil Beat** reported: "U.S. military bases in Hawaii dumped more thanhalf a million pounds of nitrate compounds — toxic chemicals commonly found in wastewater treatment plants, fertilizers and explosives — into the ocean in 2019".

Then there's the Navy's Red Hill fuel tank that leaked 27,000 gallons of jet fuel and a quick cover-up followed. Capt. Mike Williamson said shortly after the spill "I have high degree of confidence that petroleum products from this incident have not migrated from the Red Hill tank facility towards the Red Hill well aquifer," However the Honolulu Board of Water Supply said the contamination did in fact hit the aquifer.

I could give many more examples but i don't want to waste my time or effort sending info to the military which has little transparency and acts in its own self interest. I think its a bad idea to lend, lease, give any Hawaiian land to the military anymore!!!

tlaloc tokuda  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740



## Michael Tom

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Of the following: Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already

disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

**From:** Michael Tom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:14  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Michael Tom

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Michael Tom
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	Of the following:
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are

exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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## Melissa Tomlinson

Aloha. My name is Melissa Tomlinson and I'm calling from Lafayette, California to give testimony to oppose extending military leases in Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa--oh that was a tongue twister. Wahiawa. Anyway, Yes. Please do not extend leases. It's like grotesque already enough, that these lands have been leased to the military. That it's been done for the last 55 years for the amount of a dollar. I mean, it just, that is ridiculous. But in general, that kanaka maoli native Hawaiians You know, are the most displaced, houseless population on islands. Throughout specifically Oahu, that Hawaiian homes, you know, I mean, just in and the destruction that's happening from the military to the land to the environment, it's atrocious. So, Please, please do not extend these leases to the military. Thank you. Mahalo.

## Hokulani Topping

Save Hawai'i



## Juana Torres

I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases to U.S. Army on Kahuku, Makua and W'ahiawa. These lands should be rightfully restored to the public.

The U.S. military has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. The exploitation and destruction of Hawaii's natural resources and the desecration of sacred lands must end.

## Dana Torrico

My name is Dana I am a resident of Arizona and I strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and naturally and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for a dollar since 1964. When these leases expire in 2029 this land should immediately be restored to the public.

## Emily Townley

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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From: Emily Townley  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Emily Townley  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 1:31:29 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Emily Townley

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

RESIDE IN: Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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Mickey Tran

Give Hawaii back their land! Remove military stations for training!!!

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**From:** Mickey Tran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 0:53  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source]

Give Hawaii back their land! Remove military stations for training!!!

## Carolyn Treadway

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources:

Please do NOT re-lease land to the US Military. Diplomacy, not militarism, will help to save our planet. Military bases risk not only land but all the life on this beloved planet. Do NOT lease land to the military no matter what is offered financially.

Most sincerely,

Carolyn Treadway Washington State

**From:** [Carolyn Treadway](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do not lease land  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:56:33 AM

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Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources:

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Most sincerely,

Carolyn Treadway  
Washington State

## Samantha Trevino

The United State's military has long used the island of O'ahu for military training and usage, taking up space in the lands meant for the Hawai'ian citizens and native Hawai'ian people. This, in addition to the worsening climate conditions, will have an devastating effect on the O'ahu island, the environment, and its people. Please, consider not renewing the contract for military use and leave the land to it's original keepers, the native people of Hawai'i.

## Jenny Trollman

I oppose renewing the lease to the US Army. I fully support giving Hawaiian land back to native people. Our Beautiful Earth is not our playground for war, it is our home.

## Ashley Trotter

The state should NOT lease out the land to the U.S. Army. This land is being destroyed daily with the weapons they use. The land can be used for cultural, educational, and community purposes. As a middle school Social Studies teacher I educate my students on the negative environmental, economic, and social impact the U.S. Army has on our islands.

## Virginia Trowbridge

The Army has wrongfully leased the land on Oahu for \$1 a year since 1964. This is incredibly disrespectful to the native Hawaiians that it effects and to all American taxpayers as the military gets a majority of said taxes. Not to mention the environmental impact on the land, animals and people that have to listen to gunshots and bombs going off. I strongly oppose the military renewing their lease in 2029 and I am FOR restoring and returning the land!



## Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Reasons checked below. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warming harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiolo-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those

potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi

USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments

[Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi

Monday, August 30, 2021 5:38:05 AM

Koa Futures

EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

Entry Details

MY NAME IS:

Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN:

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

I AM:

A resident of O‘ahu

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

Reasons checked below.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O‘AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for

\$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for war-making harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense

of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

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complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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## Adam TUIFAGU

To whom it may concern:

As a person who loves Hawai'i and her people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākuā, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered.

Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

- 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises.
- 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies.
- 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Aloha 'Āina,

Adam Nākoa Tuifagu

## Adrienne Turner

"Oh, my name is Adrian and I'm a resident of Tennessee, and I'm very strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the island of Oahu. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, including the natural habitats and the Native Hawaiian plants and animals and this will just continuously disrupt the lives of the local community in general, and I'm sure all of us to be able to visit the land of but of course they can't right now because it's occupied by the army. And then the army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When these leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public for the reasons I previously stated, thank you. "

## Traci Turner

The military installations on Oahu should be returned to the control of the state of Hawaii. Using this land as a staging area for military buildup in the Pacific is a waste of tax payer dollars and does not deter foreign military actions.

## Tessa Turpin

The army should not expand its base in Hawaii. Doing so will disrupt native ecosystems. They've done enough harm to the land already.

## Kaitlin Tweedie

Where do I even begin? This land that is being taken from us is more sacred than you can imagine and it's being destroyed for mere military practice. What good is the land if it's destroyed? All this destruction will only result in more chaos. And who will be happy then? It's the the same thing that's happening with the rest of the world. And it's sad to see that money is more important than the livelihood of the people. How can we even call ourselves human? What more do you need? Why not take our salvation as well?

## Frederick Tyres

"Aloha. My name is said Frederick Tyres and I'm a resident of Oahu and I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. Destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army is wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expiring 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public and the Native Hawaiian people. Mahalo "



## Kamalani Uehara

Makua used to be a beautiful place. Please do not allow continued military training on our 'aina. The local community does not benefit one bit from military presence. Continued training on this 'aina promotes desecration of land, ecosystem, native species, and creates hewa with kanaka today and of the past. Since military has arrived to these islands, there has been such a tight grasp on anything they can claim. To my knowledge, only Kaho'olawe was "returned," after YEARS of BOMBS being dropped shaking neighboring islands and pummeling the land into the dirtless, windy rock it is today. And still, us kanaka are in the process of making efforts to restore it. It is 2021, start making things right, US Military! The federal apology in 1993 is for nothing without action. Get out of our home.

## Tavia Ukauka

Please no more military army trading on Oahu or any Hawaiian islands! Give Hawaiians their land back!

## Sunny Unga

To whom it may concern:

I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

Scores of concerned citizens have taken time to express to you the impact of the long-term occupation of these lands and US military presence in our islands. Your study should follow the parameters set by these true experts on the impacts of your proposal. Our comments have raised the impacts of the occupation of these parcels, spanning time and space, and your EIS should follow suit. You should evaluate historical harms that would continue should you retain these lands, as well as the growing cumulative impact that would compound should you continue misusing these lands. Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered.

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Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

## Annette Mehana Unten

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... It's time. The U.S. government took this land for the protection of outside forces. The threat is no longer there. Give the property back. Train on the mainland where there is more land. Our land is sacred. I have been in the Kahuku mountains after a testing. The mountains are trashed and totally disrespected. Enough already. Stop now! Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many

Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

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In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

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**From:** Annette Mehana Unten [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 20:41  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Annette Mehana Unten

# Koa Futures

## EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Annette Mehana Unten
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Ewa Beacj, Hawaii 96706
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli A resident of O‘ahu
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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Enough already. The military is not king here.  
Do what is right. Give the land back.



Powered by

## Andrea Valencia

The retention of these lands for any type of military use is neither necessary nor preferable and as a local resident and native Hawaiian I ask that you do not seek to renew the leases on these locations.

## Ashlee Valeros

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... too much of Hawai‘i land is already occupied by the U.S. military. The land belongs to the Kanaka Maoli people. We need less military occupation and more land for our native Hawaiians. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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**From:** Ashlee Valeros [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 23:46  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Ashlee Valeros

**Koa Futures**  
EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

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MY NAME IS:	Ashlee Valeros
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
I AM:	A resident of O‘ahu
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ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING  
PURPOSES.

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Your illegal occupation of my home is ridiculous you treaty breaking shit sticks

**From:** BRANDON VALEROS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 14:32  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - BRANDON VALEROS

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
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#### PURPOSES.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Your illegal occupation of my home is  
ridiculous you treaty breaking shit sticks

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## Anna van Dorsten

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Hawaiian people deserve to have their land to be able to use for cultural, educational, or other purposes besides military use by their colonizers. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military

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From: Anna van Dorsten  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Anna van Dorsten  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 20:59:18 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Anna van Dorsten

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

I RESIDE IN: Goleta 93117

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

Hawaiian people deserve to have their land to be able to use for cultural, educational, or other purposes besides military use by their colonizers.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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## Julian Vandeventer

Article 28 of the UNDRIP states "Military activities shall not take place in the lands and territories of indigenous people, unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned". Said peoples, the Hawaiian community, have NOT agreed upon such activity, thus the protests. Article VI of the US Constitution is also broke (treaties) in the "lease" of concerned land.

## Suzanne Vares-Lum

It would be wonderful if one day we could realize world peace, and the U.S. would have no adversaries to deter, but the reality remains that we have significant threats to the U.S. and that includes Hawaii. The Indo-Asia-Pacific Region is witnessing a rising PRC that is hedging its way across Oceania, an increasingly assertive Russia, and an unstable and unpredictable leader in North Korea, Violent Extremism in South and South East Asia, and more natural disasters than any other region on the planet. The United States and its allies and partners need a trained and ready force to deter our adversaries and to be postured in the region -- if our forces are not ready and trained and are not present in the region, the U.S. deterrence will fail.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the ability of the Army and other services including the Hawaii National Guard and the Marines to train both on Oahu as well as Pohakuloa Training Area. In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, I Suzanne Vares-Lum, underscore that the preceding EIS and community engagement are vital to support military readiness as it supports all Hawaii-based military actions and across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Renewal of lands for military use does not alter the responsibility of the environmental stewardship that the Army and the military has been working hard to invest and improve over time. This EIS process I believe is genuine, and I believe the Army desires to take a hard look at balancing security and readiness with environmental stewardship and access. There are creative solutions for coexistence.

## Shika Veera

This is unbelievable. For the environment and the people of the region. Appropriate compensation should be provided if anything, but there is no need for so many military bases.



## Mia Vergari

The military should not renew their lease in Hawaii land. This land was taken from indigenous peoples and belongs to them. The military weapons testing is destroying the land.

## Christina Vien

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... Military occupation is harmful to the fragile ecosystem. Hawaii has many endemic plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. Military actions, such as testing, must stop in Hawaii. Hawaii's land should be used for public goods such as conservation, housing for permanent residents, open space, agriculture and farming. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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From: Christina Vien  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Christina Vien  
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:38:41 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

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#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Christina Vien

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

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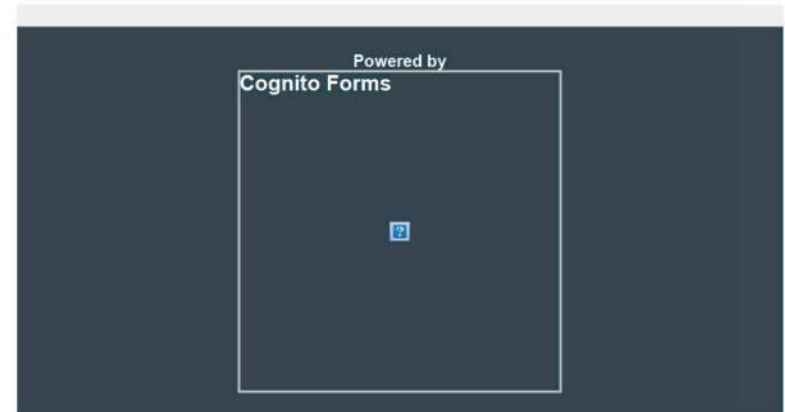


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which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.



## Elizabeth Villasana

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the US military to further damage the natural resources of this area, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be released back to native indigenous Hawaiians.

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CTV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Wahl, Gregory T CTV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#); [Pate, Daisy Berbert CTV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS Scoping (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:49:05 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS Comments

**From:** Elizabeth Villasana <evillasana92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>; USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments <usarmy.wheeler.id-pacific.mbx.nepa-comments1@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS Scoping

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Villasana and I'm a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee. I'm emailing today in regards to the Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS- Scoping.

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the US military to further damage the natural resources of this area, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be released back to native indigenous Hawaiians.

Thank you for your time,  
Elizabeth

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Elizabeth Villasana

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Villasana and I'm a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee. I'm emailing today in regards to the Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS- Scoping.

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the US military to further damage the natural resources of this area, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be released back to native indigenous Hawaiians.

Thank you for your time,Elizabeth

**From:** [Elizabeth Villasana](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations](#); [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS Scoping  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:10:43 AM

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Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Villasana and I'm a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee. I'm emailing today in regards to the Army Training Land Retention Oahu EIS- Scoping.

I strongly oppose the extension of military leases on the Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the US military to further damage the natural resources of this area, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local communities. The army has wrongfully leased this land for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be released back to native indigenous Hawaiians.

Thank you for your time,  
Elizabeth

## Viana Villaseñor

I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākuā Military Reservation, Mālama Mākuā has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority

working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'ānae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākuā, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'ānae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākuā Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'ānae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: Viana Villasenor  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Viana Villasenor  
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 5:29:37 AM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Viana Villasenor

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

I AM: A resident of O'ahu  
A resident of Wai'anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential

alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people".



Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological

ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the

affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Emma Villemarette

Good morning,

I recently became aware that the US military is up to renew its lease on the island of O'ahu. After the tragedies and disenfranchisement of native people nationally and globally, historically and presently, I would like to see more of this land go back to them. The percentage of military land to native land is appalling when compared on a map. I urge you to take a step back and analyze this situation from an objective standpoint.

All the best, Emma Villemarette

**From:** Emma Villemarette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 5:11  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land Renewal

Good morning,

I recently became aware that the US military is up to renew its lease on the island of O'ahu. After the tragedies and disenfranchisement of native people nationally and globally, historically and presently, I would like to see more of this land go back to them. The percentage of military land to native land is appalling when compared on a map. I urge you to take a step back and analyze this situation from an objective standpoint.

All the best,  
Emma Villemarette

Nicole Vise

Aloha kakou,

My name is Nicole Vise and I am writing in regard to the Army Training Land Retention EIS. I am a Cultural Researcher who has worked in the cultural resource management field for over 12 years and has interviewed more than 75 people throughout the Hawaiian Islands for various State, County, Federal, and private projects. A contentious topic for many Native Hawaiians and long-time residents is the presence of the military impeding on Hawaiian lands. These places where military training occurs, pollute the ground which eventually seeps into our aquifers and drains into our ocean thus affecting our water supply and aquaculture that we gather for personal consumption. Some of the contracts that I have worked on professionally include the subject areas, where I do recall there being cultural sites present and where cultural groups continue to hold ceremonies on site. I encourage you to conduct a thorough EIS that at least includes an archaeological inspection of the properties with a historic property condition report; a cultural impact assessment; a traffic management study; a socio-economic study; a noise-pollution study; and a hydrology study.



## Kalyn Wadsworth

Hello, I am a resident of Waialua and work on a farm in Hale'iwa.

I'm gonna start by addressing the types of concerns you'd like to hear. Then I will get to a larger, more important point that you probably don't want to keep hearing but really should listen to.

First, there are military aircrafts that fly above where I work multiple times every week which create loud, disturbing noises that make it harder to work. There are also many other animals and organisms-that contribute to the health and success of the farm-who may be harmed by the noises and vibrations of the aircrafts. Along with the physical noise disturbance, the use of this land for military training will lead to continued depletion of the ecosystem health and quality. The human boundaries created to separate training area from the rest is followed by humans alone—so damage done to the ecological systems and organisms within the training area affects entire ecological communities beyond the military's boundaries as well. Ecological communities like the farm land I work with and where many people live and work here on north shore.

Now, to reiterate the type of message I know you've already heard many times but I really wish you would actually listen to and act on:

No matter how hard the U.S. military works to create and uphold the false narrative that they bring protection and freedom to people-the reality is that it's presence here is a violent stance against the freedom of Native Hawaiian people. The military is occupying stolen land and they should be working seriously to implement the best processes of restoring and returning land to Kānaka Maoli.

## Kaukaohu Wahilani

Hi. Aloha, Kehau....A little mele. (Chanting in Hawaiian). Aloha mai kakou. Kaukaohu Wahilani ma puhea mai au, this Waianae Valley. Born and raised in Waianae Makua, and I totally oppose with the extension of the lease in our beloved Makua Valley. I'm here to stand up for those, our kupuna that got displaced from Makua, and our kupuna that are still in Makua. As a member of Na Kane Koa Makua, we go out every night to Makua, to Ka'ena State Park, to protect it from people from all over the world, including military that come over there every night to camp when they can camp. But I'm just in opposition. And I want to state to all my people that -- all are kanaka that testified and non-kanaka in opposition, mahalo nui. Respect our existence or expect our resistance. A hui hou. Mahalo, Kehau.

Purdyka Wahilani

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

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**From:** Purdyka Wahilani  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 5:07  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Purdyka Wahilani

### Koa Futures

#### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O‘ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Purdyka Wahilani
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	Wahilanip@gmail.com
I RESIDE IN:	Waiānae 96792
I AM:	A resident of Wai‘anae, Kahuku, or Poamoho
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	<p>Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.</p> <p>These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality</p>

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Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

## Arthur Wall

Renewal of the Pohakuloa lease to the US Army must be made with a tangible commitment to repair environmental damages to that area by the U.S. Army, to develop zero-impact programs for future use, and pay a current market leasing rate according to market rates for range land rental on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Environmental and cultural stewardship by the U.S. Army must be intrinsic in any future leases.

Powered by



## Lexis Wallace

There is no reason for the army to continue to occupy this land. Train the army elsewhere. Hawaii is incredibly limited in the amount of land it has. Not to mention this occupation is incredibly detrimental to native Hawaiians and Hawaii's economy. Give up the land and give it back to its rightful owners, Hawaiian natives.

## Amy Wasielewski

To whom it may concern:

As a person who supports Hawai'i and the people who are calling for it to be returned to its people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākua, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

The military controls 22.4% of O'ahu while the islands were never ceded to the United States. It is time to listen to people of Hawai'i that are speaking directly to you now. Your EIS should take into account the historical harm caused by the occupation of O'ahu as well as the ongoing impact on the land and resources of the island caused by military misuse.

Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered. Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include: 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises. 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies. 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military. Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

**From:** [Amy Wasielewski](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Support for the No Action Alternative for the State lands at Mākuā, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 17:14:19 PM

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To whom it may concern:

As a person who supports Hawai'i and the people who are calling for it to be returned to its people, I am firmly opposed to the Army's retention of any of the "State" lands at Mākuā, Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho. I support the "No Action Alternative" that would allow the three leases to expire and require the Army to comply with all lease terms that include the clean-up of these lands. Alternatives 1-3 all preserve the status quo in which Hawaiian land is bombed, burned, littered and polluted. The status quo is precisely what needs to be upended. As things stand, we are not able to provide for the basic necessities of the people of Hawai'i. Food, water, shelter, are all in short supply, with the pending climate crisis intensifying the urgent need to re-focus on building resilience locally. Training soldiers for war in distant lands does nothing to address any of these problems nor the harm that training contributes to each.

The military controls 22.4% of O'ahu while the islands were never ceded to the United States. It is time to listen to people of Hawai'i that are speaking directly to you now. Your EIS should take into account the historical harm caused by the occupation of O'ahu as well as the ongoing impact on the land and resources of the island caused by military misuse.

Alternative futures that your retention of these lands would foreclose should also be considered. Please add to the "Alternatives" section, alternatives that include:

- 1) Diplomacy with those the military perceives as potentially requiring a combat response and disclosing disputes for civil remediation. This would eliminate the need for combat mission training exercises.
- 2) Reprioritize food security and resilient communities as a counterattack strategy. Rather than meet an attack in the theater of U.S. Pacific operations through armed forces, a counter-measure would focus on rebuilding the capacity of communities to rebuild and sustain themselves. This alternative would meet the purpose and need through the long term goal of securing Hawai'i against the depredations of state enemies.
- 3) Retention of lands to ensure appropriate stewardship and ecological preservation, including wildlife fighting capacity, for the duration of a planning period for transition to a public land trust and/or organizations or associations of communities that will properly steward the land. This would augment your "No Action" alternative and allow for immediate questions of landowner liability to be addressed to the U.S. military.

Instead of insisting on the current path of retaining these lands, switch gears and genuinely engage the community on a clean-up plan that sets us on a path to return these lands to those who love them. This return of 'āina is long overdue. The time is now to give the #landback.

Danny Wassman

With more and more of the Native Hawaiian population being pushed out of Hawaii due to over priced housing by foreign developers / investors the military leased land should be returned to the Hawaii Nation. We need to house our native population and get them off of the streets and beaches . They deserve to have the best of what this Aina has to offer and nothing less than that. These are people born and raised in Hawaii, local people who know and love this Aina. It is time to return what you have leased for the past century. We have all stood by and continue to watch the never ending abuse of Hawaiian Lands being illegally misused by government and military for personal profit.

We need to stop and reset our goals for our Homeland and our People before moving into any further unknown foreign investment. People before Profit is the only way,

Mahalo Dw

**From:** [Danny Wassman](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army's proposal to retain 6,300 acres of "State" land  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 17:54:21 PM

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With more and more of the Native Hawaiian population being pushed out of Hawaii due to over priced housing by foreign developers / investors the military leased land should be returned to the Hawaii Nation. We need to house our native population and get them off of the streets and beaches . They deserve to have the best of what this Aina has to offer and nothing less than that. These are people born and raised in Hawaii, local people who know and love this Aina.

It is time to return what you have leased for the past century. We have all stood by and continue to watch the never ending abuse of Hawaiian Lands being illegally misused by government and military for personal profit.

We need to stop and reset our goals for our Homeland and our People before moving into any further unknown foreign investment. People before Profit is the only way,

Mahalo  
Dw

## Joseph Wat

Aloha kākou,

The United States Military has wide sweeping impacts across the islands and the world. In this time of underfunded public institutions, immense wealth inequality, lack of affordable housing, and disappearing open space, the continued extremely cheap leasing of these vast public lands to the United States Military is unacceptable.

Please return these lands to the people of Hawai'i.

At the very least... significantly increase the price to the military for the uses of these spaces. While it is impossible to put a price tag on the sounds of explosions and gunfire heard from Wahiawa in Waianae classrooms and loss of and exclusion from ancestral lands... if military use of these lands continues no school, hospital, or other public serving institution in Hawai'i should be lacking knowing the unknowably deep pockets and unaudited budget of the US Military.

Why should the public trust that the military will use these lands appropriately after the damages done in Mākua Valley? How much closer to growing our own food would be if access were granted to Poamoho? How much cheaper would rent be if the rental budget allotment for military families was not in the picture? How much housing would be opened?

Please consider the longstanding detrimental impact of military use of these lands. If caring for the land that we stand on is not enough of a plea, demand enough compensation that the people of Hawai'i living off out of these areas can thrive! Please make the military tend to Mākua to the point where the public can safely access it before giving the military continued access to the rest of our spaces!

Thank you,  
- Joe

## Lauren Watanabe

"Aloha. My name is Lauren Watanabe I am a resident of Honolulu Oahu and I strongly oppose the extension of the military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. I'm also a member of the Sierra Club equality and organize your with the with the club and with our extensive look at the leases, which have been going on for decades it has created almost irreversible damage to our native natural habitat. Native Hawaiian and plants and animals and we are interdependent with their ecosystems. And so this continual disruption by military presence and testing is really impacting Again, these ecosystems and the lives of the local community at the same time, the army has wrongfully least these blends from the state for only \$1 Since the 1960s. When it expires, this land should be immediately restored to the public. It should be restored to Hawaiians were in desperate need of land, especially on Oahu. And it is incredibly important that it is us and steward in a way that benefits the people of Hawaii and does not again continually to disrupt and do harm to our natural environment and natural resources that we desperately need to protect. So I hope you continue to look into this impact and do the right thing and deny this lease. Thank you. "

## Patrick Watson

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian and part of a large family on Oahu, with documented lineage tracing back 36 generations, I would like to see a large reduction in the military control of lands on Oahu. Kaho'olawe, Pōhaku, and Makua Valley are prime examples of what a military lease represents.

Prime areas on Oahu like parts of Pearl Harbor, Kaneohe Bay/North Beach, Makua Valley, Wahiawa, Waimanalo, Lualualei, Pokai Bay, Ewa Beach, Red Hill, Waikiki, Diamond Head, Kahuku, and Dillingham/Mokuleia have been under military control for as long as I have been alive, and consequently some of these areas made inaccessible to locals like me have been environmentally damaged. My mother told me when she was little, her mother (my grama) was a singer/hula dancer on the beaches of Waikiki and grama would scold my mom for being there because that beach was "for military and haoles" only.

Historically the perception is that the land was taken from Hawaiians illegally by the U.S. government. Then during the war more land was seized and locals were again displaced and demeaned by being told they did not have access to areas they once enjoyed and relied on for subsistence. Pearl Harbor was named due to the prolific oyster population it once contained in its pristine bays. Now West Loch is a nasty stagnant smelly mess with signs everywhere warning against eating any fish from that area. Poka'i Bay in Wai'anae was once the gathering place and central hub for the Wai'anae coast with endless fishing resources, limu, recreation, and a critical location historically for our Hawaiian culture. Now it has become a recreational spot catering favorably to military families, and forcing local families to park off site to walk long distances around restricted access areas, and the local end of the beach has become a notorious gathering place for homeless and drug users. Perhaps the military can take some initiative and besides protecting their "own" they could protect the citizens of our communities and regularly enforce order in trouble spots like Poka'i, instead of allowing resident watch groups made up of women and the vulnerable to try to police the areas in question.

From a practical standpoint, I do support our U.S. military and understand they need to retain certain areas and bases for our country's security, and to maintain training areas for readiness in the event of war. And I am not a big fan of what today's society has championed as "reparations"; i.e. A two year old Japanese child does not owe me for what happened at Pearl Harbor 80 years ago. She wasn't there and neither was I. But there is some credibility to the idea that Hawaiians have had much taken from them unfairly, and that the military/U.S. government should make every effort to be sympathetic to ideas of restitution and good will by returning as much of our land back to its originally intended uses and condition as possible.

I would be open to retention of some of the land for military purpose if there were concessions towards releasing more areas to public access, and if the military was immediately being responsible and proactive towards cleaning up and restoring the areas that have been used for the last 65 years as if these lands will not be renewed for military use, needing to be returned in as good or better condition from when they first took occupancy.

The lack of responsibility demonstrated at Makua Valley for detrimental environmental impacts such as the threat caused by unexploded ordinances, hazardous material runoff, desecration of sacred Hawaiian sites, and irreparable damage to the rare plants and wildlife in that ecosystem, coupled with an inability from the military to provide an EIS in 2001-2004 to support the continued use of live fire in Makua, does not speak highly for supporting these types of military operations in those areas.

Discussions for opening access to non-project related military areas which would greatly benefit the public, such as agricultural development in Lualualei Valley which has suffered less adverse effects from unexploded ordinances than Makua Valley, and travel access and development of a public thoroughfare/highway through the adjacent Kolekole Pass should be considered.

This would offset the current food needs and traffic burdens on the Wai'anae coast and greatly facilitate alternate travel routes as well. The community benefit would be prolific and welcomed. In exchange, some of the properties like Makua Valley could be bargained for as long as the protocols change and include environmental clean up and monitoring, and reduced military footprint to allow for more public access and cultural practitioner events.

I also want to see a fair monetary value applied to the properties they are requesting retention of, adjusted annually, with those monies collected being made available to community benefits in the affected areas. This could address homelessness, hunger, housing, job development, and community building.

I would also request that the terms of these "leases" not be 65 years. They should be reduced to 25-30 year periods, and clauses in the contractual language requiring that the military meets with the local government to revisit the lease conditions every 10 years, to evaluate environmental impact performance, opportunity for amendments as technology and military requirements change, and allow for community input on how the lease holders have performed.

Mahalo,

Patrick Watson

## Adam Wayson

Currently Makua is littered with old ammunition and is a serious liability to anyone visiting the state park... I am a volunteer with Hawaii state parks and I am currently working on restoration efforts in the Makua area including Kaneana Cave and The dunes between Makua beach in the cave, regularly I come across ammunition sitting on the surface many people are attempting to dig into the ground to plant native species in an attempt to restore the natural ecosystem, unfortunately due to the military's influence in the area it is quite dangerous to explore. Please clean up your mess as you have destroyed a sacred space and it deserves to be treated as such.





Brittany Weaver

Kānaka maioli deserve their lands back.

## Mickey Weems

Okay. Aloha. My name is Mickey Weems. I'm a proud Marine from a military family that goes back to the Civil War. We fought for the Union. I want to talk to you about honor. I went to visit the ROTC center over on the U.H. Mānoa campus, and looking about, I was talking with the commandant there, the commander. There were all these mea kaua, weapons of war, there. There were all these ihe, spears. There were lei mano there. There were, like, these handcrafted Hawaiian weapons that were given in honor to people for various services. And that apparently is a military thing. I mean, even some of the mottos over at the ROTC center are in Hawaiian. So there's this honor superficially given to the kanaka maoli, and I would -- I would remind that that honor is contingent upon a kuleana, responsibility, to respect the people from which you are deriving this mana. Okay? I see no problem with it, because one of my friends is Umi Kai. He's a weapons master, and he probably made a lot of the weapons that you all use, or given. And he has this to say, and I'm going to end my -- my thing, just reminding you about honor. The honor is respect the wishes of the kanaka maoli on this, and that is to give the land back; okay? He says this. He says the U.S. government needs to control the military's use of land and respect what it means to the natives that have cared for it for generations. So thank you very much.

## Rebekah Wegesend

This is a terrible idea. Give Hawaiians back their land. It's not a training center for the United States. It's scared and needs to be cared for by those who know the land better.

Gail Weininger

Please do what you can to find other non-military uses for the land that has been leased to the US government as a military base. It's time that we develop non-combative approaches to regional and world problems, and better uses for the money that is involved in maintaining such sites and equipment. Thank you for considering ways in which that land can be used to benefit the civilian population! Gail Weininger

**From:** [Gail Weininger](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.LD.Land](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] re-leasing land in Hawaii as a military base  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 17:02:52 PM

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Please do what you can to find other non-military uses for the land that has been leased to the US government as a military base. It's time that we develop non-combative approaches to regional and world problems, and better uses for the money that is involved in maintaining such sites and equipment.  
Thank you for considering ways in which that land can be used to benefit the civilian population!  
Gail Weininger

## Jaclyn Weiss

I believe the military should not occupy so much land in Hawaii and should give it back to the natives. Military testing can be done somewhere else, these natives deserve their sacred land back.

I-1843

## Danielle West

"Hi, my name is Danielle West on the resident in Oahu and a guest here on the aina and I'm calling to Encourage a very rigorous EIS, the only possible conclusion I would see from an environmental impact statement of continued to occupation continued leasing is the destruction, detoxification, the desecration of the sacred land, and and the people who have lived on in Memorial before before this military occupation. I calling because I oppose, I firmly oppose or in preparation for war at the expense of the aina and the people of the at this time in history, especially with global warming. The bombs. The live fire practice any of that is It's offensive. It shouldn't be happening. And I encourage you to to partake in a rigorous study that that those impacts are non reversible and unacceptable and Yeah. Encourage y'all not to. I encourage you to stop pursuing renewing the leases. Thank you. "

I-1844

## Kenneth Wethington

Do not re-lease Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR) on the island of O'ahu, called "O'ahu ATLR EIS." The United States invaded the Hawaiian Kingdom on January 16, 1893 and has illegally occupied Hawaii ever since. The US government destroys the land that it occupies with development, unexploded ordinance (UXO) clean up, Depleted Uranium and other toxic contamination of air, land and ground water, and invasive species. The Hawaiian landscape is forever marred by the occupation. The only way for Hawaiian land to be restored to end the lease! 23,000 acres of land near Waiki'i Ranch was purchased by the military from Parker Ranch for the Stryker Maneuver area. But the Strykers are no longer in Hawaii. They are in Washington state. But guess what the Military is keeping the 23,000-acres Stryker area with no Strykers. Why? There is no need. Clean up the mess and return all Hawaiian lands to Hawaiian hands. Like it was long overdue for the US to leave Afghanistan after 20 years of occupation, it is long past time for the US to leave Hawaii after 128 years of illegal military occupation.

## Ashleigh Whitman

Hello people,  
I oppose the military getting the land back and having all of the desecration be renewed for another century.

Sincerely,  
Ashleigh Whitman.

**From:** ashleigh.mwh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:35  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Occupation of Hawaii Lands

Hello people,

I oppose the military getting the land back and having all of the desecration be renewed for another century.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Whitman.

## Richard Whyte

The Osprey and CH53 from KMCAS and Apache and Chinooks from Wheeler fly over homes and along beaches day evening and night. The more we call the empty complaint phone lines the lower they seem to fly. They ask for time, place and type of aircraft like the US military does not know where its aircraft are at all times in 2021. They know they are buzzing the beaches at 100ft. on an excellent tour of duty. Training rollercoasters and circles over the shoreline is four pilots destroying the lives of thousands of their own citizens. The military responded to complaints in the 80s and 90s; they don't anymore. It is a constant drone of noise and they don't care. Your EIS is in-house but still please know the community can not take the helicopters flying over our homes, beaches, valleys and lives enroute to training areas.

## Richard Whyte

Aloha,

We would like to support the troops but speaking for many folks in our community the military activity on the North Shore has become intolerable. Noise complaint lines are unmanned. A blockade of community input from Public Affairs representatives by Kala, Amy, Stephany, Danny, etc, may not be allowing this problem to get through to the Colonel.

The noise gets worse. training is unannounced to neighborhood boards anymore because it continues in perpetuity. Shoved upon us lately without regard. In years past when the community complained the noise stopped for a while. Now it is in the afternoons to late at night 7 days a week.

I am sorry, too, our home and living now happens to be in the flightpath between bases and training areas. And it is nice for the trainers to be in such a beautiful place for maneuvers and sorties off of the beaches. However, this is psychoacoustic warfare waged on your own community and the mission needs imaginative innovative thinking to solve. We need a break.

A day at our house: Caution-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT5XuN2JzdE>

Mahalo,Richard WhyteKawailoa District

**From:** [Richard Whyte](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Helicopter Noise over North Shore  
**Date:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 12:40:01 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha,

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A blockade of community input from Public Affairs representatives by Kala, Amy, Stephany, Danny, etc, may not be allowing this problem to get through to the Colonel.

The noise gets worse. training is unannounced to neighborhood boards anymore because it continues in perpetuity. Shoved upon us lately without regard. In years past when the community complained the noise stopped for a while. Now it is in the afternoons to late at night 7 days a week.

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A day at our house: Caution-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT5XuN2JzdE> < Caution-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT5XuN2JzdE> >

Mahalo,  
Richard Whyte  
Kawailoa District

## Jade Wilber

I oppose the military getting the land on Oahu back.

## Beverly Wilkinson

Aloha, my name is Beverly Wilkinson and I am a resident of Augusta, Georgia. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, I believe that this land should be restored and returned to the public and native groups of Hawaii.



Sara Williams

Hello,

As a U.S. citizen and a veteran, I oppose the Army continuing to lease these lands on O'ahu. This land should be returned to the native Hawaiians, as I'm sure any training happening there could easily be done elsewhere.

Thank you, Sara Williams Rochester, NH

**From:** Sara Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:56  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] O'ahu ATLR EIS Comments

Hello,

As a U.S. citizen and a veteran, I oppose the Army continuing to lease these lands on O'ahu. This land should be returned to the native Hawaiians, as I'm sure any training happening there could easily be done elsewhere.

Thank you,  
Sara Williams  
Rochester, NH

## Amanda Wilmsen

As the median price for homes on O'ahu approaches \$1 million, it is wrong for the US Army to continue to exploit thousands of acres for just \$1. This land should be used to support the people of O'ahu, not the US military. The native people of O'ahu should have access to their sacred sites and the resources of the island.

## Annie Wilson

The military occupation of this land is unjust and un-American to the highest degree. This land holds very high value that isn't being addressed, and also does not address the lack of sovereignty of the Hawaiian people in this choice.

## Joe Wilson

As a resident of north shore Oahu, in a neighborhood on the perimeter of the Kahuku Training Area, I and my community observe and are constantly disrupted by the presence of the U.S. Military.

And while I share the larger concerns many, Native Hawaiians in particular, raise about the military's taking of and desecration of these lands, I have more specific questions about the effects of military activities that are not so visible to the civilian eye.

What is the scope of training and other activities that take place on the Kahuku Training Area (KTA)?

How many flights per day?

What types of aircraft?

What flight paths are they permitted to use?

How often do they deviate from these paths?

What are the consequences of such deviation?

What are the effects of the emissions (noise, fuel, other) on people, flora, fauna, marine life, in the paths of these aircraft?

How do the noise levels and other emissions of these aircraft affect and/or exacerbate cognitive function, sleep disturbance, and overall physical and mental health of residents ?

What are the decibel levels at different times throughout the day and night?

Do they adhere to or exceed legal limits?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

Are the aircraft flying into and out of KTA landing on KTA grounds?

How many people are on these aircraft?

What are the range of activities in which they engage within the KTA?

What effects are the aircraft, personnel, and their movements having on the flora and fauna of the KTA, either while in air or on the ground?

What are their effects on streams, other water ways, and on the water table and the quality and safety of the drinking water for residents?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

How many land-based vehicles travel to and from the KTA daily on average?

Which roadways are they using?

What are the effects of vehicle emissions on residents, flora, fauna and marine life within the KTA and along their routes between military installations?

What are the effects of these vehicles on public infrastructure (roads, bridges, neighborhood streets)? What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

How many personnel are in the vehicles that travel to, from and enter KTA?

In what activities do they engage within the KTA?

What are the effects of their movements within the KTA on flora, fauna, waterways, the water table, and other environmental features?

Of all activities that take place within the KTA, what are their effects on nearby communities, agricultural lands, wetlands, the water table, coastal zones, marine life?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

What are the native and endangered species known to inhabit or frequent the environment within what the KTA?

Of all activities that take place within the KTA, what are their effects on these endemic and endangered species?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

What Native Hawaiian cultural sites are encompassed within or have been overtaken by the KTA?

Of all activities that take place within the KTA, what are their effects on these cultural sites?

What have been, are, or will be the effects of these activities on cultural practitioners, particularly those practitioners who have been denied access to these sites?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

When, how, and why did the U.S. Military introduce *Chromolaena odorata*, commonly known as Devil Weed – one of the world's worst invasive species - to Hawaii, Oahu, and specifically, to the Kahuku Training Area?

What have been, are, and will be its effects on the flora and fauna within the KTA and on nearby agricultural areas, residential communities, wetlands, coastal zones, and marine life?

What eradication efforts have been attempted or are being conducted against Devil Weed?

What have been / are the consequences of these eradication Devil Weed efforts?

How would lease renewal affect, potentially worsen, the impacts of the Devil Weed within the KTA and in the surrounding region?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

What is the accounting of all U.S. Military activities that have taken place within the KTA since the signing of the original lease in 1964?

What have been the effects of these activities on the environment, flora, fauna, endangered species, and human health of those within the KTA and nearby regions?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

Throughout the lifetime of the U.S. Military leases of lands known as the KTA, what is the accounting of mitigation or clean-up activities that have taken place?

When and where have these activities been made available to the public?

For what specific uses does the U.S. Military need to renew the leases of lands now known as the Kahuku Training Area?

What are the known or potential impacts of these activities on the environment, flora, fauna, endangered species, and human health of those within the KTA and nearby communities and

regions?

What studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

How and when will these studies or other reports be made available to the public?

What have been the line item financial costs to taxpayers - at the federal, state, and county level - of all activities that have taken place at the KTA since the signing of the original lease in 1964?

What are the projected line item financial costs to taxpayers - at the federal, state, and county level - of all activities that would take place at the KTA if the lease is renewed or extended in some form?

How will these studies or other reports be conducted and how and when will they be made available to the public?

Joe Wilson  
Ko'olau Waialua Alliance

**From:** [Joe Wilson](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations](#)  
**Cc:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] ARMY TRAINING LAND RETENTION ON O'AHU Environmental Impact Statement - Scoping Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:17:56 AM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Aloha,

I am sharing (below) my comments on the scoping period for the Army Training Land Retention on Oahu EIS because the Project Overview and Public Involvement web site < Caution-  
<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/oahueis/project-overview> > seems to be malfunctioning and it is unclear whether or not the online submission process is working.

As a resident of north shore Oahu, in a neighborhood on the perimeter of the Kahuku Training Area, I and my community observe and are constantly disrupted by the presence of the U.S. Military.

And while I share the larger concerns many, Native Hawaiians in particular, raise about the military's taking of and desecration of these lands, I have more specific questions about the effects of military activities that are not so visible to the civilian eye.

What is the scope of training and other activities that take place on the Kahuku Training Area (KTA)?

How many flights per day?

What types of aircraft?

What flight paths are they permitted to use?

How often do they deviate from these paths?

What are the consequences of such deviation?

What are the effects of the emissions (noise, fuel, other) on people, flora, fauna, marine life, in the paths of these aircraft?

How do the noise levels and other emissions of these aircraft affect and/or exacerbate cognitive function, sleep disturbance, and overall physical and

mental health of residents ?

What are the decibel levels at different times throughout the day and night?

Do they adhere to or exceed legal limits?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

Are the aircraft flying into and out of KTA landing on KTA grounds?

How many people are on these aircraft?

What are the range of activities in which they engage within the KTA?

What effects are the aircraft, personnel, and their movements having on the flora and fauna of the KTA, either while in air or on the ground?

What are their effects on streams, other water ways, and on the water table and the quality and safety of the drinking water for residents?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

How many land-based vehicles travel to and from the KTA daily on average?

Which roadways are they using?

What are the effects of vehicle emissions on residents, flora, fauna and marine life within the KTA and along their routes between military installations?

What are the effects of these vehicles on public infrastructure (roads, bridges, neighborhood streets)? What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

How many personnel are in the vehicles that travel to, from and enter KTA?

In what activities do they engage within the KTA?

What are the effects of their movements within the KTA on flora, fauna, waterways, the water table, and other environmental features?

Of all activities that take place within the KTA, what are their effects on nearby communities, agricultural lands, wetlands, the water table, coastal zones, marine life?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

What are the native and endangered species known to inhabit or frequent the environment within what the KTA?

Of all activities that take place within the KTA, what are their effects on these endemic and endangered species?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

What Native Hawaiian cultural sites are encompassed within or have been overtaken by the KTA?

Of all activities that take place within the KTA, what are their effects on these cultural sites?

What have been, are, or will be the effects of these activities on cultural practitioners, particularly those practitioners who have been denied access to these sites?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

When, how, and why did the U.S. Military introduce *Chromolaena odorata*, commonly known as Devil Weed – one of the world's worst invasive species - to Hawaii, Oahu, and specifically, to the Kahuku Training Area?

What have been, are, and will be its effects on the flora and fauna within the KTA and on nearby agricultural areas, residential communities, wetlands, coastal zones, and marine life?

What eradication efforts have been attempted or are being conducted against Devil Weed?

What have been / are the consequences of these eradication Devil Weed efforts?

How would lease renewal affect, potentially worsen, the impacts of the Devil Weed within the KTA and in the surrounding region?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

What is the accounting of all U.S. Military activities that have taken place within the KTA since the signing of the original lease in 1964?

What have been the effects of these activities on the environment, flora, fauna, endangered species, and human health of those within the KTA and

nearby regions?

What studies are these data based on or what studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

Throughout the lifetime of the U.S. Military leases of lands known as the KTA, what is the accounting of mitigation or clean-up activities that have taken place?

When and where have these activities been made available to the public?

For what specific uses does the U.S. Military need to renew the leases of lands now known as the Kahuku Training Area?

What are the known or potential impacts of these activities on the environment, flora, fauna, endangered species, and human health of those within the KTA and nearby communities and regions?

What studies will be conducted to make these determinations?

How and when will these studies or other reports be made available to the public?

What have been the line item financial costs to taxpayers - at the federal, state, and county level - of all activities that have taken place at the KTA since the signing of the original lease in 1964?

What are the projected line item financial costs to taxpayers - at the federal, state, and county level - of all activities that would take place at the KTA if the lease is renewed or extended in some form?

How will these studies or other reports be conducted and how and when will they be made available to the public?

Joe Wilson  
Kaunala / Velzyland  
Ko'olau Waialua Alliance

## Vernon Wilson

My name is Vernon Wilson, born and raised in Wahiawa, and I oppose any extension of your lease.  
Thank you.

## Austin Windau

The U.S. military must withdraw their lease over these thousands of acres of Hawaiian land, as it has been a detriment to the environment of natives of Hawaii. The U.S. military is a large factor in the rising rate of climate change, as well as local fauna and flora. Continuing training on this land will further disrupt ecosystems and wildlife, as well as continue the grasp the country has had over the island society for decades. The natives coexisted with the land and had their own separate culture before the U.S. invaded and dethroned their queen to claim the land for ourselves. This is a chance to help give back part of what we stole and ease the grip colonialism has over the island. The native peoples have had their land stolen and their culture trampled, and all that remains is a careless tourism industry and a massive military presence on their doorstep. If the U.S. truly wants to view itself as some "beacon of freedom", then holding an entire island hostage under military presence is not the way it should be done. Please reconsider the lease and actually work to protect our communities by listening to them and helping them with empathy, not overwhelming force.

## John Witeck

"Aloha. I'm John Witeck a resident of Honolulu, HI. I want the EIS to deal with the pollution and the other issues of contamination of the environment that has gone on at Kahuku, Pohakuloa, and other places. I think the issue of justice for the kanaka maoli, the Native Hawaiian people also needs to be considered because it's their environment and these are their lands. And I think they should be restored to the to the original occupants of the islands, who lost so much and had their lands illegally seized and their government overthrown. The military does not need all these training areas. They're extensive, they can be used for more productive and positive purposes than warfare training. Aloha. Thank you for considering my comments again I'm John Witeck W-I-T-E-C-K, longtime resident and a hope this process is a fair one and the lands are restored to the people of Hawaii. Aloha. "

## John Witeck

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... these lands should be returned to the Kanaka Maoli and the people of Hawai'i for constructive, non-military uses. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to

contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. The U.S. Army has held these leases for generations. It is time to restore the lands to positive uses that benefit the people of Hawai'i. Military use of our lands make Hawai'i a target rather than a place of peace and aloha! The US military must end its occupation of Hawai'i!



**From:** John Witeck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 2:49  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - John Witeck

**Koa Futures**  
EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

**Entry Details**

MY NAME IS:	John Witeck
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	these lands should be returned to the Kanaka Maoli and the people of Hawai'i for constructive, non-military uses.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

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Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anāe Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

The U.S. Army has held these leases for generations. It is time to restore the lands to positive uses that benefit the people of Hawai'i. Military use of our lands make Hawai'i a target rather than a place of peace and aloha! The US military must end its occupation of Hawai'i!

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## John & Lucy Witeck

### TESTIMONY OPPOSING THE RENEWAL OF LEASES TO THE U.S. ARMY FOR LARGE TRACTS OF LAND ON OAHU

The U.S. Army's past record on environmental conservation of these thousands of acres at Makua, Poamoho and Kahuku speaks strongly against granting the Army the renewal of their leases for those tracts. There has been considerable devastation of those lands and, in the opinions and culture of Hawai'i's indigenous people, a desecration of sacred sites.

The land -- the aina -- is itself a gift that is to be used to sustain life, not to be a staging area for global war-making operations. The more Hawai'i is involved in war-making training and plans, the more it becomes a target for hostile actions--one thing leads to another.

On heavily populated Oahu, there is a need for these lands to be used for more constructive uses than military training, equipment storage, and weapons firing. Land is needed for agriculture--to make Hawaii more food-self-sufficient--and for housing, parks, and other constructive uses.

The people of Hawai'i have been more than generous to the Army and the other military branches in the past, but now it's time to put an end to these leases which are not the best use of these enormous tracts of land.

Given the U.S. government's role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian government in 1893 and the unilateral 1898 annexation and seizure of large tracts of Hawaiian land, the renewal of these leases on Oahu and of Pohakuloa on the Big Island is an unjustified continuation of an illegal occupation. Thank you for considering our testimony. Aloha, John and Lucy Witeck, Honolulu, Hawaii XXXXX

**From:** [John Witeck](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Army's EIS proposal on renewing leases at Makua, Poamoho, and Kahuku  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 11:57:43 AM

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Given the U.S. government's role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian government in 1893 and the unilateral 1898 annexation and seizure of large tracts of Hawaiian land, the renewal of these leases on Oahu and of Pohakuloa on the Big Island is an unjustified continuation of an illegal occupation.

Thank you for considering our testimony.  
Aloha, John and Lucy Witeck, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

#### Julia Withers

I oppose the leasing of these lands by the US military. It is an abomination that the military has leased these vast lands for decades for just \$1. Allow Native Hawaiians to access their lands. Do not renew leases for the military on these lands for the good of O'ahu.

## Anastacia Wolfgramm-Pineda

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... my family who are current residents of O'ahu deserve to live without worry of further desecration of our homeland. While many Kanaka Maoli struggle to live well on native lands, it isn't right for a foreign army to be permitted to "rent" and harm lands—especially for one US dollar. I would like to submit the follow comments regarding the Army's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land on O'ahu for military training purposes. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'ānae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from

psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'ānae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'ānae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'ānae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: [Anastacia Wolfgramm-Pineda](#)  
To: [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Anastacia Wolfgramm-Pineda  
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 17:54:32 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Anastacia Wolfgramm-Pineda

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN: Ontario, California 91764

I AM: A Kanaka Maoli

"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...

my family who are current residents of O'ahu deserve to live without worry of further descretion of our homeland. While many Kanaka Maoli struggle to live well on native lands, it isn't right for a foreign army to be permitted to "rent" and harm lands— especially for one US dollar.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

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The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives.

However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that



disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil

and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural

Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendents and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Nancy Wond

No more leases of the Hawaiian Aina should be gifted to the US Military for the purpose of training and killing. Makua, Pohakuloa on Hawaii Island and the Kahuku Training Area are filled the remains of military ordnance. Clean it up and return the land!. This is the Land of Aloha. This land should never be used for the purposes of military training which is focused on the killing of others. Do not make our Federal and State Lands a giant target in the Pacific! This Pacific Military Buildup is a competitive game the US is justifying as a means to show US Military Might against China. We do not want our beautiful, precious and loving Hawaii to become a pawn in this ill conceived war game with China.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [nancy wond](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No to Renewal of the Hawaiian aina to the US Military  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 13:37:35 PM

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We do not want our beautiful, precious and loving Hawaii to become a pawn in this ill conceived war game with China.

Nancy Wond

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



## Deanna Wong

Give the native people their land back.

## Troy Wong

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The US Military has no legal right to be here in a illegally occupied nation. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted

communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

Do what is right. You know the truth, stop living in the illusion of the US. We are not American

**From:** Troy Wong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 13:11  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Troy Wong

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Troy Wong
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Kapaa, Hawaii 96746
I AM:	A Kanaka Maoli
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE...	The US Military has no legal right to be here in a illegally occupied nation.
I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.	Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the

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Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

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PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

Do what is right. You know the truth, stop living  
in the illusion of the US. We are not American

## Jennifer Woo

Hello. The military cannot justify the vast use of Oah'u land. The military's presence is colonial in nature. The rental contract is one representation of their colonization: Misuse of the land and it's resources with insincere and meaningless transaction (\$1).

Aloha!

Jen Woo

## Symia Woodson

Hello, I am a resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma and my name is Symia Woodson. I am strongly against and oppose the extension of military leases on Hawaiian lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. These lease extensions will lead to further damage of natural resources by the military in these areas. Due to US military occupation the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals will be destroyed. The local people and communities will also continue to be negatively impacted by US military presence.

The US army has leased these lands for \$1 wrongfully since 1964. Once the lease expires in 2029, the land should be restored back to the public and community.

**From:** Symia Woodson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 5:19  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] US lease extension of Hawaiian public lands

Hello, I am a resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma and my name is Symia Woodson. I am strongly against and oppose the extension of military leases on Hawaiian lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. These lease extensions will lead to further damage of natural resources by the military in these areas. Due to US military occupation the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals will be destroyed. The local people and communities will also continue to be negatively impacted by US military presence.

The US army has leased these lands for \$1 wrongfully since 1964. Once the lease expires in 2029, the land should be restored back to the public and community.

## Georgette Woolsey

As a child of the 60's I can remember my dad driving us down towards Makua to see the military dropping paratroopers by the hundreds off Makua, watching them firing bombs in the mountains. We have seen the military marching these men's by the hundreds, trucks, tanks, jeeps, every vehicle they have has come through makaha. I have watched on TV, many Hawaiian people fighting to stop the bombing. today I see photos popping up over the internet of my neighbors, brother, and my dad standing in support of Makua. I Can say I am proud of them for showing up and standing for what's right. Most of us have left Makaha for many reasons, but will always be in support of what's is right for our Land on every island.I stand in support of returning MAKUA to its people of Hawaii.  
Mahalo Ke Akua,Georgette Woolsey

**From:** [Georgette Woolsey](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] MAKUA  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021 11:50:42 AM

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As a child of the 60's I can remember my dad driving us down towards Makua to see the military dropping paratroopers by the hundreds off Makua, watching them firing bombs in the mountains.

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Most of us have left Makaha for many reasons, but will always be in support of what's is right for our Land on every island.

I stand in support of returning MAKUA to its people of Hawaii.

Mahalo Ke Akua,  
Georgette Woolsey

Ang Woon

I urge the Army to cease leasing lands in Hawaii because of the likely environmental damage and because it encroaches on Indigenous Hawaiians' land and wellbeing.



## Aree Worawongwasu

Aloha. I'm Aree Worawongwasu. I'm a Honolulu resident, a diaspora Mon woman from Thailand and a Ph.D. student at the University of Hawai'i in Manoa. I'm speaking today in solidarity with kanaka maoli who demand the end of leases, the immediate start of cleanup, and the return of lands to worship to kanaka maoli. By all accounts, the United States and the military is illegally occupying the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which was unlawfully invaded by the U.S. Marines on January 16, 1893. This EIS is a sham. The U.S. military is the world's largest polluter, creating 750,000 tons of toxic waste every year in the form of depleted uranium, oil, jet fuels, pesticides, defoliants, lead, and other chemicals. The U.S. military's occupation and desecration of Hawaiian land is being used to enact violence all across the Asia-Pacific region, including my native homeland. It is misleading and deceptive to present land back as a no action alternative while giving all other alternatives numbers. Not retaining the leases is not enough. The U.S. military must clean up its mess. As an indigenous woman, I also express a concern for how militarization threatens the safety of women and girls around the Pacific for sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. If you are actually concerned about environmental impacts, you would return the land to kanaka maoli and clean up your mess and de-occupy Hawai'i now. For the future of the world, as the 2021 IPCC report states, we have 16 months to solve the climate crisis. This necessitates a demilitarized and independent Pacific. Long live the Kingdom of Hawai'i. That concludes my comments for today. Mahalo.

## Ann Wright

Hello this is Colonel Ann Wright that was 29 years in the US Army also a US diplomat for 16 years. I've lived here on Oahu for 20 years. I am solidly in favor of not releasing to the army, the lands that are up for the 33,000~30,000 acres. There's cultural sensitivity of keeping these lands in the hands of the military when they should be returned to the Hawaiian people. It is very, very important. I did not grow up here. I'm not Hawaiian, I am a haole who has served in the military for 29 years and I think it's time for the land to be returned to the people of Hawaii. Ann Wright. Thank you.

## Colonel Ann Wright

Aloha O'ahu Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) EIS committee,

I spent 29 years in the U.S. military, 13 years on active duty with the U.S. Army and 16 years in the Army Reserves. I retired as a Colonel. I also was a U.S. diplomat for 16 years and served in U.S. Embassies in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia. I was on the small team that reopened the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan in December 2001.

I have lived in Hawai'i for the past twenty years.

I want to emphasize the amount of community support for stopping the lease of the 30,000 acres of State of Hawai'i land that was leased in 1965 for \$1 and leases that are coming to an end in 2029.

There have been three OPEDs and many letters to the editor have been printed in the Honolulu Star Advertiser.. and many more have been submitted. I am including them in my statement (see the attachment for all the OPEDs and Letters to the Editor) has they cover a range of the concerns of the community about the U.S. military retaining the leases on the 30,000 acres. These 30,000 acres have been a part of the incredible amount of acreage that the U.S. military uses on the Big Island with 133,000 acres on Pohakuloa Military Training Area and the four major military bases on O'ahu and the 4,370 acres at the Kawaiiloa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation.

Having spent almost three decades in the U.S. military, I know from experience that military thinking is to get as much land as possible for training using the necessity of "national security" when in fact, the great expanses of land are not needed.

In the small state of Hawai'i, every acre is important and after 65 years of having essentially a free deal for 30,000 acres, it is time to return these 30,000 acres to the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you.

Ann Wright, COL, US Army/Reserves (Ret)

August 31, 2021

O'ahu Army Training Land Retention (ATLR) EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444  
E-mail: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)

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Thank you.

Ann Wright, COL, US Army/Reserves (Ret)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Military should return Hawaii lands

unanticipated circumstances, routine OCCC jail and pre-release popula- is now.  
Honolulu Star-Advertiser - 08/08/2021

Pa



COURTESY U.S. MARINE CORPS

U.S. Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, disembarked from an MV-22 Osprey during an Oct. 23, 2019, exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area.

## Military should return Hawaii lands

By Ann Wright

The 65-year leases of 30,000 acres of Hawaii state land by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers.

The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaiiloa/Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation were given away essentially for free, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel for 65 years!

The three areas on Oahu are one-third of the 18,060 federal and state lands used for military training on the island, while the 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa are 17% of the 133,000 acres that comprise the largest military training area in the state and in the Pacific region.

We are subjected to a daily dose of the U.S. military build-up for what the

disputes through military action — millions of persons dead and wounded, including tens of thousands of U.S. military, as evidenced by the wars in Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Ultimately disputes with countries are resolved not by military action, but by dialogue, so why are we spending trillions on weapons that ultimately do not solve the situation?

AS RESIDENTS of Hawaii, I think we should want to be known as an area of peace and dialogue using the Hawaiian technique of “ho’oponopono” — rather than as a base

for projecting the U.S. propensity for killing over using diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries.

A first step would be reducing the

### ISLAND VOICES



*Honolulu resident Ann Wright was in the U.S. Army/Army Reserves for 29 years and retired as a colonel; she was also a U.S. diplomat until resigning in March 2003 in opposition to the U.S. war on Iraq.*

The U.S. Army is seeking public comments on the environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning the re-leasing proposal by Sept. 1.

You can email comments to: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil) or go online to fill in the form at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS>. Comments may also be mailed to: Oahu ATLR EIS Comments, P.O. Box 3444, Honolulu, HI, 96801-3444.

Attending public hearings this week is another way to be heard. Hearings are set for Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-9 p.m., at Leilehua Golf Course; they will be livestreamed at

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=agahawaii/live](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agahawaii/live).

Oral comments may be provided by attending one of these two in-person public scoping meetings, or re-

## ISLAND VOICES

By Ann Wright

August 8, 2021

Honolulu Star Advertiser

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210808&goTo=E03&artid=3>

The 65-year leases of 30,000 acres of Hawaii state land by the U.S. military are ending in 2029. The state of Hawaii should not re-lease these lands no matter what the amount the U.S. military offers.

The leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaiiloa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation were given away essentially for free, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel for 65 years!

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We are subjected to a daily dose of the U.S. military build-up for what the Indo-Pacific command is calling “our enemy China.” We know what happens when the U.S. tries to resolve disputes through military action — millions of persons dead and wounded, including tens of thousands of U.S. military, as evidenced by the wars in Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

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AS RESIDENTS of Hawaii, I think we should want to be known as an area of peace and dialogue using the Hawaiian technique of “ho’oponopono” — rather than as a base for projecting the U.S. propensity for killing over using diplomacy to reduce tensions with other countries.

A first step would be reducing the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii by refusing to re-lease 30,000 acres currently used by the U.S. military.

The U.S. Army is seeking public comments on the environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning the re-leasing proposal by Sept. 1. You can email comments to: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil) or go online to fill in the form at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS>. Comments may also be mailed to: Oahu ATLR EIS Comments, P.O. Box 3444, Honolulu, HI, 96801-3444. Attending public hearings this week is another way to be heard. Hearings are set for Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-9 p.m., at Leilehua Golf Course; they will be livestreamed at [www.youtube.com/usaghawaii/live](http://www.youtube.com/usaghawaii/live).

Oral comments may be provided by attending one of these two in-person public scoping meetings, or remotely by calling (808) 556-8277; recording services for comments are available both days, 4-9 p.m.

*Honolulu resident Ann Wright was in the U.S. Army/ Army Reserves for 29 years and retired as a colonel; she was also a U.S. diplomat until resigning in March 2003 in opposition to the U.S. war on Iraq.*

## End military land leases, militarism; invest in peace in

By Ellen-Rae Cachola, Kim Compoc and Darlene Rodrigues

We are Decolonial Pin@ys, a Honolulu-based organization of Filipinas concerned about the protection of the Hawaiian islands, the Philippine islands, and all peoples under U.S. military occupation. We submit this statement to express our solidarity with kanaka maoli who demand an end to the military leases at Kahuku, Pohakuloa, Poamoho, and Makua so that a proper cleanup can begin.

The "training," as the military calls it, is a disgrace. What use are live-fire explosions, military helicopters, or other instruments of mass death? Militarism means toxic contamination for generations, desecrating the land, and disrespecting the indigenous culture. Militarism only perpetuates poverty and misery here, in the Philippines, and all over the world. We want to protect these islands. The military's version of

"protection" begins with the backhanded compliment that our islands are "strategically located" to advance "U.S. interests" in the "Indo-Pacific region." We do not subscribe to the U.S. military version of security and protection, which is really an agenda of endless war and corporate extraction. We want the military out of these islands so we can build a green economy based on genuine security, survival and peace.

As Filipinas, we stand with the Hawaiian people because we, too, have suffered under U.S. colonial occupation. We know what it is to have no say over your lands, your economy, or your destiny as a people. As the late Haunani-Kay Trask wrote, "[To the U.S.], Hawai'i, like a woman, is there for the taking." We say, no more of this madness.

### ISLAND VOICES



Ellen-Rae Cachola, left, is an ethnic studies instructor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa; Kim Compoc, center, is an assistant professor of history at the UH-West Oahu; Darlene Rodrigues is an Oahu resident and master's of divinity student at Claremont School of Theology.

The Philippines has so much to teach about language diversity, religious diversity and resilience of indigenous cultures. But the U.S. military is not interested in democratic movements to protect all that is beautiful in the Philippines. The U.S. uses Philippine land for "joint military training exercises," as many as 281 in 2020, not including RIMPAC "war games" that take place here every other year.

Just recently the U.S. approved \$2 billion in military weapons sales

to the Philippines, a grotesque sum given the ongoing human rights crisis that most affects indigenous people, farmers, journalists and anyone brave enough to prioritize land and people over corporate profits.

We know the military expansion in Hawaii will worsen the crisis in the Philippines, and stop funding the killings. Stop U.S. "war games" on all our precious islands. Stop "red-tagging" everyone who wants a chance at a decent life for their families.

If we listen to indigenous land protectors, we can build a brilliant future, but that means putting common sense at the forefront.

The fight for genuine democracy must respect water, and tradition are accessible, especially people who love these lands for centuries.

WE DEMAND they pay to go to govern line items that generate "life, liberty, and happiness": education, health care and transportation. Governments must make a social contract by protecting people and care for we depend on.

We can build a green economy in Hawaii means defunding industrial complex, ending military use of and cleaning it up turned to the common violent uses. We can replicate the clean pines, and in the occupied Pacific, so protected, too.

### COMMENTARY

## Precarious Afghan economy will challenge Taliban lead

By Bobby Ghosh

No sooner had the Taliban taken Kabul than questions began to be asked about how they would manage Afghanistan's economy. Do the insurgents-turned-rulers have the skills to run, say, a modern finance ministry and central bank? Will foreign donors trust them with aid? Can they do business with investors interested in the country's mineral wealth?

Throughout their two decades in the wilderness, the Taliban have shown themselves capable of generating resources to maintain an insurgency, mostly from the drug trade, illegal mining and donations from supporters abroad, but also from taxes and rents in areas under their control. In good years, the Taliban's revenues amounted to upwards of \$1 billion.

But the Afghan budget is more than five times that size. The country's gross domestic product, estimated at \$22 billion, has grown nearly threefold since the Taliban were driven from power in 2001. And the economy has for several years been in precarious health, propped up by foreign aid. By the World Bank's reckoning, three-fourths of the government's bud-

get is funded by international donors, led by the U.S.

Managing that economy has been a cohort of Afghan technocrats, many of them Western-educated or trained. Very few of them are expected to remain in the country, despite the Taliban's promise of "amnesty" for anyone who worked with the deposed government.

The most urgent economic challenge for the new rulers, then, is a yawning skills deficit in government ministries and departments. The Taliban will struggle to find ministers and administrators whom foreign donors and investors can trust.

Right now, new donors or investors are not inclined to trust the Taliban anyway. The Biden administration has frozen \$9.5 billion in the Afghan central bank's assets and halted shipments of cash to the country. European governments have suspended development aid; and the International Monetary Fund has cut off access to Afghanistan's special drawing rights.

Western governments, multilateral agencies and donors will slap strict conditions on the resumption of funding. Aid will be predi-

cated on the Taliban preserving many of the freedoms — especially for women — introduced in their absence, and on preventing the resurgence of terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda.

Western investors will take their cues from their governments, paying heed to economic sanctions. They will also be influenced by public perceptions: Most U.S. and European companies will be mindful of the likely domestic backlash against doing business, directly or otherwise, with the Taliban.

Might non-Western investors feel unconstrained by such considerations? There has been some speculation that China and Russia are keen to fill the vacuum created by the American withdrawal. Beijing and Moscow have plenty of security concerns about Afghanistan that will motivate them to engage closely with any Taliban-led government in Kabul, but serious investment is another matter altogether.

Chinese banks and companies are less risk-averse than their Western counterparts, but they

tend to be leery of unstable economies. The experience of Venezuela, where Chinese loans are having to be renewed simply to avoid huge writedowns, is a cautionary tale for investors.

Although Beijing has talked a good game about investing in Afghanistan for some years now, very little money has materialized. The showpiece Chinese venture, a \$2.8 billion copper project funded by the state-owned Metallurgical Corporation of China at Mes Aynak, near Kabul, has long since stalled.

The infrastructure requirements for extracting Afghanistan's mineral wealth are huge. The country is severely lacking in transportation networks, for instance. Getting the minerals out of the ground and into China would require investments of a magnitude larger than the Mes Aynak project. Chinese investors have other, safer places to put down that kind of money.

The Taliban may covet Chinese aid, but they will have to compete with governments across the developing world, most notably Africa. For its part, Russia is hardly the most generous aid giver, trailing far behind the world's richest

countries in development assistance.

All that said, the ease of the Afghan takeover. Local business tend neither on foreign investment nor forward to a relationship with a country that were of bounds because of the insurgent forces. The government could be relieved of its state officials as well as criminal gangs' brutal style, an effective deterrent. But not all business fit; those depend on workers, for instance, lack. And it is only before businessmen themselves having to protection money officials. The Taliban slouches at extort

Bobby Ghosh is a London-based columnist who writes on global affairs, focusing on Africa and Asia.

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As Filipinas, we stand with the Hawaiian people because we, too, have suffered under U.S. colonial occupation. We know what it is to have no say over your lands, your economy, or your destiny as a people. As the late Haunani-Kay Trask wrote, "[To the U.S.], Hawai'i, like a woman, is there for the taking." We say, no more of this madness. The Philippines has so much to teach about language diversity, religious diversity and resilience of indigenous cultures. But the U.S. military is not interested in democratic movements to protect all that is beautiful in the Philippines. The U.S. uses Philippine land for "joint military training exercises," as many as 281 in 2020, not including RIMPAC "war games" that take place here every other year.

Just recently the U.S. approved \$2 billion in military weapons sales to the Philippines, a grotesque sum given the ongoing human rights crisis that most affects indigenous people, farmers, journalists and anyone brave enough to prioritize land and people over corporate profits. We know the military expansion in Hawaii will worsen the crisis in the Philippines. That is why we say: Stop stealing Hawaiian land and end the military leases. Stop the multibillion-dollar sale of weapons to the Philippines, and stop funding the killings. Stop U.S. “war games” on all our precious islands. Stop “red-tagging” everyone who wants a chance at a decent life for their families.

If we listen to indigenous land protectors, we can build a brilliant future, but that means putting common sense at the forefront. The fight for genuine freedom and democracy must mean that land, water, and traditional foodways are accessible, especially to indigenous people who have stewarded these lands for centuries. WE DEMAND the taxes that we pay to go to government budget line items that genuinely promote “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”: education, housing, health care and transportation. Governments must honor the social contract by providing for the people and care for the ecosystem we depend on. We can build a climate-resilient economy in Hawaii, but that means defunding the military-industrial complex, decommissioning military use of land in Hawaii, and cleaning it up so it can be returned to the community for nonviolent uses. We need the U.S. to replicate the cleanup in the Philippines, and in the rest of the U.S.-occupied Pacific, so the world can be protected, too.

Honolulu Star Advertiser

## ISLAND VOICES

*Ellen-Rae Cachola is an ethnic studies instructor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa; Kim Compoc, center, is an assistant professor of history at the UH-West Oahu; Darlene Rodrigues is an Oahu resident and master's of divinity student at Claremont School of Theology.*

August 26, 2021



keeping our keiki safe and getting them back in school.  
Honolulu Star-Advertiser - 08/29/2021

We respect an individual's right to be vaccinated. As private businesses,

nity that can be vaccinated as soon as possible.



U.S. MARINE CORPS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finnish coalition forces assisted evacuees for onward processing during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 24.

## Replace wasteful wars with diplomacy

By David Strand

I am deeply appreciative and grateful that our president has shown the courage and fortitude to finally end our military involvement in Afghanistan. I am distressed that he has been subject to criticism from across the political spectrum by Monday-morning quarterbacks who profess to know better how to bring peace. It is estimated that approximately 170,000 people have been killed during the last 20 years of conflict, almost one-third of them civilians.

Withdrawal will certainly entail some fatalities, but America's contribution to the carnage, thankfully, is almost done.

Hopefully our withdrawal will lead to a diminution of our military presence throughout the world, and an increase in utilizing diplomacy in our foreign affairs. I believe that our reliance on the military is not in our national interest and generally harmful to the world for the following reasons:

1. The results of our military interventions during the last 70 years have generally been counterproductive. They have exacerbated unrest in the Middle East and elsewhere and diminished our international reputation

portion of victims are innocent noncombatants, including children and the elderly. While it is always possible that military action will do at least some good, we know for certain that it will always bring absolute evil to the innocent victims of "collateral damage." American manufactured arms proliferate, enhancing the lethality of combatants.

3. War destabilizes the world. Refugees proliferate, resulting in suffering to the refugees themselves as well as often chaos to the societies where they seek refuge, diverting government priorities and encouraging xenophobia among the population of the host societies.

4. War diverts our attention and resources from dealing with domestic issues, from climate change to homelessness, from schools and education to our crumbling infrastructure, to economic development. Non-military public service options, such as the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, suffer.

5. War increases the power and respectability and influence of the military and military leadership. We are encouraged to believe that it is desir-

### ISLAND VOICES



David Strand, of Aiea, is a retired immigration attorney.

customed to multiple problems resulting from military activity: sexual assault within the armed services, homeless veterans, PTSD, environmental degradation, and militarization of police with excess military hardware, to name a few.

I fear that the current positive media spin on significant ongoing military build up in Hawaii suggests that we have not changed. China has moved into position as our seemingly necessary perpetual enemy. We spend more on our military than the next few countries combined. We have a great many military bases around the world and troops stationed in more than 100 countries. China has only one base in a foreign country. We fail to understand that China's Belt and Road initiative and other non-military international development efforts are where the Chinese are outpacing us. I wish that our competition would focus on spreading prosperity throughout the world.

Unfortunately war prioritizes arms manufacturers and others contribute to our emphasis on the military, just as weapons manufacturers

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Hopefully our withdrawal will lead to a diminution of our military presence throughout the world, and an increase in utilizing diplomacy in our foreign affairs. I believe that our reliance on the military is not in our national interest and generally harmful to the world for the following reasons: 1. The results of our military interventions during the last 70 years have generally been counterproductive. They have exacerbated unrest in the the Middle East and elsewhere and diminished our international reputation and standing.

2. Bombing in particular and war in general always result in bringing death, serious injury, and dislocation to innocent people. A substantial proportion of victims are innocent noncombatants, including children and the elderly. While it is always possible that military action will do at least some good, we know for certain that it will always bring absolute evil to the innocent victims of "collateral damage." American manufactured arms proliferate, enhancing the lethality of combatants.

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5. War increases the power and respectability and influence of the military and military leadership. We are encouraged to believe that it is desirable to reallocate our priorities so that the financial requirements of the military overshadow domestic needs. We more readily accept curtailment of our civil liberties. We become accustomed to multiple problems resulting from military activity: sexual assault within the armed services, homeless veterans, PTSD, environmental degradation, and militarization of police with excess military hardware, to name a few.

I fear that the current positive media spin on significant ongoing military build up in Hawaii suggests that we have not changed.

China has moved into position as our seemingly necessary perpetual enemy. We spend more on our military than the next few countries combined. We have a great many military bases around the world and troops stationed in more than 100 countries. China has only one base in a foreign country. We fail to understand that China's Belt and Road initiative and other non-military international development efforts are where the Chinese are outpacing us. I wish that our competition would focus on spreading prosperity throughout the world.

Unfortunately war profiteering by arms manufacturers and others contribute to our emphasis on the military, just as weapons manufacturers inhibit domestic gun control.

I wish I knew an effective strategy to influence our government to pursue peace with the energy with which we prepare for war.

*David Strand, of Aiea, is a retired immigration attorney.*

August 29, 2021

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210829&goTo=E03&artid=0>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Military exercises raise tensions, risks

The article, "Modern warfare" (Star-Advertiser, Aug. 15), reported on Large Scale Exercise 2021, the most massive U.S. war exercise in a generation. The article's intent is apparently to reassure and comfort us.

This reader is anything but encouraged. It was chilling to read that this massive deployment of ships and aircraft around the Pacific and beyond is really a rehearsal for "deep strikes into enemy territory" in the future. And "high-end conflict," of course, is a way of avoiding saying, "World War III," which would immediately turn into a nuclear war.

And Hawaii, the U.S. Pacific military nerve center and prime target for intercontinental missiles? It is quite probable that a nuclear war would extinguish all life in the Hawaiian Islands.

Rather than increasing our safety and security (which also depends on the Chinese and Russians also feeling safe and secure), Large Scale Exercise 21 will intensify the arms race and increase tensions. Let's concentrate on building peace.

**Noel Kent**

August 29, 2021

Honolulu Star Advertiser

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210829&goTo=E02&artid=1>

## Protest military leases of Hawaiian lands

Ann Wright's comments are right on ("Military should return Hawaii lands," Star-Advertiser, Island Voices, Aug. 8).

Hawaii should not re-lease 30,000 acres of its beautiful and valuable land to the U.S. military seven years from now.

The Hawaiian protesters at Mauna Kea also should object to any renewal of leases of lands at Pohakuloa, Kawaiiloa/ Poamoho, Kahuku and Makua.

"Malama aina!" should be their rallying cry, to care for and nurture the lands instead of using them for purposes of war.

**Ed Kuba**



Kapahulu

Star Advertiser, August 28, 2021

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210828&goTo=A12&artid=1>

### **War profits only those who make the weapons**

Following in the footsteps of the British and Russians, Americans and their allies are the latest to learn the hard lesson of challenging Afghanistan's reputation as the "graveyard of empires."

In its retreat, the United States also is contributing heavily to the land's "graveyard of weapons," leaving behind billions of dollars in armaments for the Taliban, ISIS, or others falling heir to the abandoned treasure.

The Indian author, Arundhati Roy, wrote: "Once weapons were manufactured to fight wars; now wars are manufactured to sell weapons." The world's arms merchants are not lamenting our Afghanistan loss; they are gearing up for the next in an endless chain of wars, for which we appear to be manufacturing yet another enemy.

If the string of recent reports by Star-Advertiser military reporter, William Cole, is any indication, that next war may be with China. If we think Afghanistan has been a disaster, let us think twice before leaping into the China abyss.

Surely there are diplomatic channels more productive than wasting additional billions on weapons of war.

**Wally Inglis**

Palolo Valley

August 25, 2021

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210825&goTo=A10&artid=3>

### **End military's leases on Hawaiian lands**

I support retired colonel Ann Wright's opinion ("Military should return Hawaii lands," Star-Advertiser, Island Voices, Aug. 8).

America's military action has not settled any disputes, only imposed undue hardship and destruction on other cultures and our own military personnel, while destroying Hawaiian land.

I looked at beautiful Makua Valley, and thought: How can there be any justification for the shelling by the military? That goes for any area of our islands.

Peace and diplomacy are the only avenues with other countries.

Stop polluting our land, oceans, air and the environment with unnecessary military training. No more leasing of Hawaii land to the military.

**Patricia Blair**

Kailua

August 11, 2021

Star Advertiser Honolulu

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210811&goTo=A10&artid=3>

### **Question Army's plans to renew land leases**

Speak up, Hawaii! The military has retained leases on 23,000 acres at Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawaii island, 4,370 acres at the Kawaihoa/ Poamoho Training Area, 1,170 acres at the Kahuku Training Area and 760 acres at the Makua Military Reservation for 65 years, with the state charging only \$1 for each parcel ("Secretary of Army supports training ground lease renewals," Star-Advertiser, Aug. 10).

It's far past time that the people of Hawaii question this, and now is the time, with the leases running out in 2029. The U.S. Army is seeking public comments by Sept. 1 on the environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning the re-leasing proposal. Email comments to: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil), or use the online form at [home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/oahueis/](http://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/oahueis/) project-home.

Comments may also be mailed to: Oahu ATLR EIS Comments, P.O. Box 3444, Honolulu, HI, 96801-3444.

A public hearing today from 6-9 p.m. at Leilehua Golf Course will be livestreamed at [www.youtube.com/usaghawaii/live](http://www.youtube.com/usaghawaii/live).

**Mele Stokesberry**

Kula, Maui

August 11, 2021

Star Advertiser Honolulu

<https://printreplica.staradvertiser.com?selDate=20210811&goTo=A10&artid=3>

## Ann Wright

This is Ann Wright. I'm a former -- I'm a retired U.S. Army colonel, 29 years in the Army, and a former U.S. diplomat. I've lived here in Hawai'i for 20 years. I certainly appreciate, you know, the role of the military. I was in it for a long time.

But I think the numbers of acres that the U.S. military, and particularly the Army, has is way too much. And the opportunity for 30,000 acres to be returned to the people of Hawai'i is certainly needed. Thank you very much.

## Tom Wright

Please, just leave Hawai'i. The American military has no business here. But, as you leave, please clean up your mess! —all the depleted and unexploded ordnance. You are not welcome and you never were.

Sincerely,  
Tom Wright

**From:** [Tom Wright](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] No more U.S. Army in Hawai'i!  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 10:04:28 AM

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Sincerely,

Tom Wright

## William Wu

Aloha, My name is William Wu, and I am a resident and citizen of the United States of America. I am strongly against and I strongly oppose to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for 1\$ since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. Sincerely William Wu

**From:** [William Wu](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] I oppose the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 15:55:28 PM

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Aloha,

My name is William Wu, and I am a resident and citizen of the United States of America. I am strongly against and I strongly oppose to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for 1\$ since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Sincerely

William Wu

Melissa Wyant

Hello,

My name is Melissa Wyant. I am a resident of Ohio. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua K'ahuku, W'ahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

With dissent,  
Melissa

**From:** Melissa W [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 2:21  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lease Renewal

Hello,

My name is Melissa Wyant. I am a resident of Ohio. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā K'ahuku, W'ahiawā.

An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community.

The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

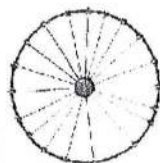
With dissent,

Melissa

## Seiji Yamada

My name is Seiji Yamada. I speak to you from Mililani in Ka Pae 'Aina, as Kekuni Blaisdell taught me to say. Seems to me, Colonel Misigoy, that you must be feeling like an embattled commander at the outpost of the empire surrounded by angry natives, because that is what the U.S. is, Colonel -- an empire. Japanese people know what it means to be imperialist, because in the first half of the 20th century, the Japanese took over much of Asia and the Pacific, killing, raping, and subjugating other people. When I visit much of Asia, people want to be sure that I know that history. My understanding of the Japanese empire grinds the lenses by which I can see the U.S. empire. It ended badly for the Japanese. We just commemorated 76 years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I was born in Hiroshima. As we walked around town, my grandfather showed me the shadow of a man burned into granite. He told me that the Japanese are for peace because they know the stupidity of war. As racist as the Japanese empire was, the fire bombing of all the cities in Japan is evidence that for the U.S. empire, the Japanese were vermin, sub-humans, to be incinerated as efficiently as possible. As Gil Scott-Heron said, "Peace is not the absence of war, it is the absence of the rules of war and the threats of war and the preparation for war." The U.S. military is using Hawai'i to prepare for war. Star-Advertiser always has stories on how the U.S. is preparing for war with China or Russia or both at the same time. What madness is this! The doomsday clock is no longer counting down minute by minute. We are now down to 100 seconds to midnight. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its most recent report on August 7th. It tells us that the world is on fire. We don't need bombs and missiles and death stars to set the world aflame. The world is on fire already. What we need now is to work out how to get rid of... What we need now is to work out how to get rid of nuclear weapons, how to stop burning fossil fuel, how to develop green technology all over the world. Other than the kanaka maoli, the rest of us are here as guests. No one wants guests that threaten to kill people. It is time for the U.S. military to stop occupying Hawai'i. Thank you.

Eric Yamamoto



*Sharing a different perspective of land usage with you. Please read with care,*

#### Medicine Wheel Ceremony.

*Earth can work; the will to take action is needed*  
Over the last year Bennie LeBeau has become aware of many profoundly distressing changes in the land and the animals at Yellowstone National Park. These changes are becoming even more ominous right now, he says, and they have prodded him into direct action to bring his vision alive.

The huge Medicine Wheel Ceremony that Bennie envisions is intended to be a mass spiritual event involving people of all colors and spiritual traditions. The ceremony will begin at Sunrise on Saturday, May 8, 2004 and end at Sunrise on Sunday, May 9, 2004. This ceremony will be taking place at more than 20 sacred sites in the American West, and at many sacred sites around the world, including Australia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and the Middle East.

The Grand Teton peaks in Wyoming -- The Four Grandmothers Standing Tall -- will serve as the center of this Medicine Wheel. The perimeter will extend out in a hoop 600 miles or more in radius, enveloping the long spine of the Rocky Mountains. Simultaneous prayer ceremonies at other sacred sites around world will help to re-activate and re-attune the web of subtle energy pathways that wrap around planet earth.

To see other images of the Medicine Wheel and mountains go to *Chiron Communiqué ~ Steve McFadden*

"All nations, all peoples are invited to participate," Bennie says, adding, "all nations, all peoples are needed to work together on this -- the black, white, yellow, and red nations of Mother Earth."

A Medicine Wheel is an ancient spiritual tool with a history of widespread use all over Turtle Island (North America). Stones are set to mark the Four Directions of North, South, East and West, and also of other major points. In this manner, if done with knowledge and respect, a sacred space is defined. Within that space, the people can direct thoughts, feelings and actions toward a unified idea. The Medicine Wheel also helps people to be grounded physically, to properly orient to the Four Directions, and thus to have a clear sense of where they are. That foundation of stability gives a reliable base for high spiritual work.

\* "The Earth is drastically out of balance now," Bennie LeBeau says. "This Medicine Wheel ceremony will strive to re-set the basic tone -- or vibrational pattern -- of the West, and by extension help to re-attune the whole of the earth."

*Message for the Peacekeepers*

I met Bennie LeBeau in Placitas, New Mexico on February 9, 2004. He had driven down from Wyoming to meet with some members of group called the Spiritual Elders of Mother Earth, a network of indigenous people from 21 different tribes in North, Central, and South America.

The elders began coming together as a group in 1999 in response to the global crises of environment and culture. Their traditional teachings have long warned that such crises would arise.

The elders say they understand from their traditions that part of their original instructions as human beings was to serve as particular keepers of the Earth. They were given basic responsibility to care for the Earth, as you would care for your mother.

Their nations, they say, were also instructed that one day they would have to step forward in a time of extreme crisis to show a pathway of respect for the Earth and all the creations who share life upon her. The native people would need to educate other people in how to respect and restore balance to our common foundation -- the Earth.

Bennie LeBeau was born on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming in 1950, and is an enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam in the early 1970s. In the years after his military service, he supported himself mainly through outfitting, taking people out fishing and hunting in the mountains.

Bennie told me that he began to have visions when he was in his late 20's, while guiding hunters along the Continental Divide that weaves North and South along the Rocky Mountain spine. Bennie went to the local Medicine People to ask for help in understanding, but they were unable to offer interpretations. So Bennie lived with the visions.

Bennie told me that he eventually came to understand on his own what his dreams and visions meant: "The land is out of balance. The bio-electric energy of the earth is being profoundly scrambled and disturbed by mines, electric transmission lines, railroads, highways, damming of the rivers, and also from development of factories, trucks, cars and so forth. War is adding to this."

"It's time to do something important, to reconnect the energy. So many sacred sites are not kept, not tended. But this is what is needed, for things are out of balance, out of harmony. It's extreme now, and it's time to come together around this, the old ways and the new ways. Every human being has a stake in this, no matter their



color or their spiritual tradition."

### *Talking with the Elders*

To bring this massive, multi-tradition Medicine Wheel ceremony about, Bennie has been inspired to travel and talk with representatives of the indigenous Nations near the waters and mountains of his vision, and also with other cultures. He began his journey in January, 2004. "I am to ask for assistance in re-activating these sacred sites," he explained. "We must all do our parts as humans to bring about harmony."

On Feb. 10, 2004 -- the day after I met with him -- Bennie journeyed west to the Turquoise Mountain (Mount Taylor near Grants, New Mexico). This is one of the sacred mountains that mark the Four Corners area of Turtle Island (North America). Turquoise Mountain is a massive dormant volcano, towering more than a mile above a vast desert plateau.

With Leon Secatero of the Canoncito Navajo, a Grandelder for the Spiritual Elders of Mother Earth, and Red Eagle from the Cherokee Nation, Bennie visited with the traditional keepers of Turquoise Mountain: Navajo Grandfather Martin Martinez and his wife, Grandmother Janice.

Bennie told them of his dreams and visions, and also of his plan. Grandfather Martin, who is in his 90s, was pleased to hear it. He told Bennie that his visions were in harmony with the Navajo teachings and prophecies that he keeps. He also mentioned that his wife, Janice, had a vision four years ago of a multi-tradition ceremony to be held near a holy spring on Turquoise Mountain. She wanted to realize her vision.

As it happens, in the context of the 600-mile radius of the Medicine Wheel of Bennie LeBeau's vision, the Turquoise Mountain of New Mexico is in the South position, the South Mountain.

In the Medicine Wheel teachings of Turtle Island the South is a direction sometimes represented by Mouse. Mouse is so small and defenseless against the rest of the world that he must rely on trust and instinct to live. Much larger forces of Spirit are at work in the world, and Mouse understands how humble creature he is in relation to all this. But good and surprising things can happen when trust inspires Mouse to make a bold move.

"This was prophesied a long time ago," Grandfather Martinez told Bennie and the other elders. "I am glad you have come and taken responsibility to be a messenger."

"The mountain is the pillar, our helper," Grandfather Martinez said. "It listens to us when we are in harmony with the stones, trees, clouds, waters, and stars. This is the wholeness that keeps life together. We will communicate with the mountain."

Grandfather Martin gave Bennie his blessings to go forward and make his Medicine Wheel Ceremony a reality. He said it was a good mission and that now is the time.

All the elders traveled up onto the flank of Turquoise Mountain after their meeting. There by a sacred spring they made ceremony together to prepare for May 8. Grandfather Martinez also initiated the drum that Bennie had made for himself, a drum laced with symbols representing the Medicine Wheel ceremony.

Grandfather Martinez shared with his guests some of the Navajo lore about Turquoise Mountain -- the South Mountain of the four sacred mountains of the Navajo, known to them as "Tsoodzil", the Blue Bead Mountain. (Turquoise Mountain is sacred to several other native groups as well; all have been invited to the May 8 ceremony).

Grandfather Martinez said there were giants on the mountains in the old days, and they were the guardians. Some were good, and some were not. The giants have gone, but their energies are still around, and a lot of it is negative energy. The negative energies and entities are coming back strong now, and it is affecting the people.

"We need to do ceremonies continually to strengthen and cleanse and empower," Grandfather Martinez said. "It is very important to do this now. The ceremonies help to keep the negative forces at bay."

Grandmother Janice told the circle of elders that the ceremony would put in place another set of vibrations. "The ceremony will happen at a time in the spring when all the plants are surging with new life," she said. "If we come together in respect with the plants, she said, we can use this energy to help bring about the intention of the ceremony."

Grandfather Martinez spoke of the Medicine Wheel ceremony as a universal wake up call. The mountain ranges have sovereignty over lines of energy that radiate around the entire earth. Thus, he said, the ceremonies we do encircling the Rocky Mountains will radiate out to other points.

Grandfather noted that many people and groups do things individually, their rituals or ceremonies. "That's okay," he said, "but right now Mother Earth and all the living things upon her have need of something more --

something where all the people are together and of one heart, one mind."

The May 8 ceremony that the elders have envisioned for the South Mountain, Turquoise Mountain, is to be a Blessing Way. That is how it will happen. Drums and singers from many nations will pass the song from sunrise on May 8 until sunset, and some may choose to sing in the night. "We will also be calling all our ancestors to be with us in this ceremony," Leon Secatero said, "that we may all reconnect with our ancestors."

There will be a particular emphasis when High Noon comes to the Four Grandmothers Standing Tall (the Grand Tetons in Wyoming). That is when ceremonies in the entire Medicine Wheel will also be putting a focus on being of one mind and heart, expressing their gratitude for Creation by elevating the level of vibration to its peak at High Noon.

For the elders of Turquoise Mountain in the South, the ceremony will also mark the starting time of an effort to establish a permanent public park on part of their ancestral lands, so that people can go there to pray and make ceremony when they feel called. They also envision a healing center

While Bennie initially saw the massive Medicine Wheel ceremony-taking place over a 600-mile radius, reaching out from the center point of the Four Grandmothers, Grandfather Martinez saw it more globally. They came to agree that everyone who chooses to participate, at whatever holy sites are accessible to them anywhere in the world, would be invited and welcomed.

Story Continued ~ Page 2

#### RESOURCES

Site created, sponsored and supported by Lana Feldman, OWOL Corp.

This site will post updated information on the May 8, 2004 Ceremony.

Spiritual Elders of Mother Earth  
<http://www.spiritualelders.org>

Protocol For Turquoise Mountain Ceremony  
Grandfather Secatero and elders established this Protocol for Turquoise Mt Ceremony. We invite you to consider observing such protocol, if it feels appropriate for you.

Buffalo at Yellowstone  
<http://www.wildrockies.org/buffalo/native.html>  
<http://www.wildrockies.org/buffalo/speak/dan82.html>





## Kami Yamamoto, MPH

Aloha, my name is Kami Yamamoto and I am a resident of Wahiawa. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawan. The extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of the local community, especially Native Hawaiians. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the rightful ownership of the public, especially Native Hawaiian people.

## Kerry Yamauchi

As a Native Hawaiian, I am here today to submit testimony to demand that "NO ACTION" be taken and the leases in question be allowed to expire, come 2029. The US military has desecrated our beautiful 'āina over and over, and consistently refuses to take accountability for the social and environmental degradation left in its wake. I'm not going to try to explain the reverence that Kānaka Māoli have for this land during this public engagement process, because if you live here you should have already be familiar with indigenous concepts of aloha 'āina, out of RESPECT for the original stewards of this land and their descendents. Of whom, if I may add, there are over 40,000 waiting to receive land that is rightfully theirs from the state. Kānaka Māoli belong in the social, political, and economic position to manage this 'āina, for agriculture, for housing, and for cultural practice. And it is the responsibility of the US military to relocate its facilities and return the lands in question to the Native Hawaiian hands they were stolen from. You guys can keep your one dollar, but you must return the 6,300 some acres of land.

## Toni Yardley

NO RETENTION  
IT'S TIME FOR REMEDIATION  
CLEAN UP THE DAMAGES  
AND PRACTICE IN INDO-CHINA

re·me·di·a·tion  
noun

the action of remedying something, in particular of reversing or stopping environmental damage.

## LeaDan Yee

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... I am kanaka and even with a VA loan upon retirement, we can barely afford land of our own. My parents, both retired,, my dad is also a veteran, cannot afford a home. My brothers, who are now raising their own children cannot afford land. If the military continues their lease, then they should also pay market value for the land to help residents with the cost of housing. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

**From:** LeaDan Yee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 27, 2021 2:13  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - LeaDan Yee

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	LeaDan Yee
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	APO 96273
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHŌ BECAUSE..."	<p>I am kanaka and even with a VA loan upon retirement, we can barely afford land of our own. My parents, both retired,, my dad is also a veteran, cannot afford a home. My brothers, who are now raising their own children cannot afford land.</p> <p>If the military continues their lease, then they should also pay market value for the land to help residents with the cost of housing.</p>

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

## Niyah Yisrael

I really think this land should be returned to Native Hawaiians. They live and thrive off of it and it's only right. This is an illegal occupation and against the feelings of the native inhabitants

## Bean Yogi

As someone with generations of settler roots in Hawai'i, I join Kanaka Maoli and others around the world who oppose the renewal of the US Army's lease of Hawai'ian land for ATLR -- and in fact, for all military purposes. The violence caused by the US military's presence runs deeply on human, environmental, and moral levels. The army is the lessee of Hawai'ian lands, not the decision-maker. Yet, we submit our comments to the US Army, as though they are entitled to make decisions about Indigenous lands upon which they are the colonizer -- under the guise of an EIS process, which is obviously performative. The US military is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and controls nearly a quarter of land on O'ahu. These injustices compound generations of colonization, just one aspect of the larger injustice of the US military's occupation and degradation of Kanaka Maoli land. There should be no "retention" of this land for the US Army; the military should never have been in control of it in the first place. I am an Indigenous Okinawan whose ancestors and kin are also subject to the violence of the US military. I join Kanaka Maoli and Indigenous peoples in Hawai'i and everywhere else, who demand land back for Kanaka and a demilitarized Hawai'i.

Bean YogiZip code: XXXXX

**From:** [Bean Y.](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] O'ahu ATLR EIS comment  
**Date:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 21:30:29 PM

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As someone with generations of settler roots in Hawai'i, I join Kanaka Maoli and others around the world who oppose the renewal of the US Army's lease of Hawai'ian land for ATLR -- and in fact, for all military purposes. The violence caused by the US military's presence runs deeply on human, environmental, and moral levels.

The army is the lessee of Hawai'ian lands, not the decision-maker. Yet, we submit our comments to the US Army, as though they are entitled to make decisions about Indigenous lands upon which they are the colonizer -- under the guise of an EIS process, which is obviously performative. The US military is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and controls nearly a quarter of land on O'ahu. These injustices compound generations of colonization, just one aspect of the larger injustice of the US military's occupation and degradation of Kanaka Maoli land. There should be no "retention" of this land for the US Army; the military should never have been in control of it in the first place.

I am an Indigenous Okinawan whose ancestors and kin are also subject to the violence of the US military. I join Kanaka Maoli and Indigenous peoples in Hawai'i and everywhere else, who demand land back for Kanaka and a demilitarized Hawai'i.

Bean Yogi  
Zip code: 98118

## Jess Young

The United States government owes Hawai'i and its people rematriation of the stolen land that the US military occupies and reparations to the people from here. We have witnessed the pollution and destruction that the US military causes to our land, water, and wild life. There is no time soon enough for native self determination and stewardship of the land.

We demand that this lease is not renewed and that the wellbeing and autonomy of Hawaiians and Hawaiian land is prioritized and respected.

Karen GS Young

Aloha, Please add my written testimony to the Public Scoping process in your EIS re renewing the lease for Makua Valley on Oahu. Mahalo, Karen GS Young

---

**From:** Karen Young [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 10:59  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS: Public Scoping / Re Makua Valley  
**Attachments:** OPPOSING RENEWAL OF LEASE.docx

Aloha,

Please add my written testimony to the Public Scoping process in your EIS re renewing the lease for Makua Valley on Oahu.

Mahalo,  
Karen GS Young

August 21, 2021

Karen GS Young  
XX-XXXX XXXX St.  
Wai'anae, HI XXXXX  
Cell : XXX XXX XXXX

Re: US Army Environmental Impact Statement with Goal to Renew Leases

SINCE BEFORE WWII, the military has used Makua Valley for it's bombing, missile, and other airstrike practices, as well as ground military live fire practices. It had also been used to open burn various toxic chemicals, hospital waste, and weaponry waste: there is apparently no detailed records. During these many decades, the effects of these activities on the Environment and the People of the Westside was not monitored or even considered.

Also during these years many military vehicles with various heavy weaponry and soldiers passed through the streets of Nanakuli, Wai'anae, and along the Westside, on their way to Makua. Various military helicopters and military airplanes also flew over. This made the Wai'anae Coast a military target.

**The take over of these lands (650 acres) was via a 65 yr lease for \$1, to the State of Hawai'i.**

**The gall of it ! The belittling of precious land in Hawai'i!  
The disregard of the people who were living in Makua Valley.**

The families living in Makua Valley were booted out, perhaps paid a token sum, and in some cases made to leave by the military destroying the precious wells that sustained them.

Approximately 17 yrs ago, MALAMA MAKUA through the legal work of EARTHJUSTICE, successfully sued the US ARMY to stop live fire training in Makua Valley, until an acceptable EIS was completed. During this time, there's been NO LIVE FIRE TRAINING IN MAKUA. That kind of training has been moved to another site. Soldiers have been successfully trained somewhere else for 17 - soon to be 18 years! That is, the Military did not need Makua, to train them!

Makua Valley includes the adjacent valleys: Kahanahaiki, and Ko'iahi: together presenting a spectacularly majestic view as one drives to the end of the road - Ka'ena Pt

This is not the only beautiful land on the Westside the military has confiscated and exploited. There is also the military tracking station above Ka'ena Point, the vast lands of Lualualei Naval Reserve and the Army Restcamp. There may be others not

so well known.

NOW, we have another affront to the community: a movement to renew the lease !

This community has waited 65 yrs for the lease to end ! The repeated refrain to the Army Representative at Neighborhood Board Mtgs is: " When is the Army going to leave??!"

In this time of warring countries, political upheavals, the Pandemic Surge, the thousands of migrants escaping intolerable and unlivable situations in their home countries and the frequent natural disasters brought on by Climate Change : we are going to practice more hand to hand killings and practice bombing to kill people more effectively??

NO, NO! NOT EVER, should the lease be renewed to the US Military!  
Instead, the Army should do its **HONORABLE DUTY: Clean up the valley of UXOs** and Leave the valley, let it rest, let it become a place to now Experience and Teach Peace.

Hopefully and Respectfully,

Karen Young  
Community Resident

## Kristen Young

Aloha, my name is Kristen and I am a resident of Makiki, born and raised on O'ahu. I am strongly OPPOSED to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, and Wahiawā. Extending these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for just \$1 for over 50 years.

Growing up in Hawai'i, we learn the concept of mālama 'āina—to care for the land so the land can care for us. The leasing of these lands to be used for warfare harms our environment and in turn the people of the land. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public.

Mahalo for your consideration.

## Kristen Young

I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... not only does the leasing of these lands NOT benefit the Hawaiian people, the people of the land; the use of these lands for military purposes also actively harms the land and contributes to destruction and desecration. For too long, Hawai'i has been taken advantage of, the people and land disrespected and disregarded to prioritize profit and power for a select few. I hope that those with authority might choose to value life, the land and its people, above all else. Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality



acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project.

US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities.

These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities.

Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands.

In the *Ching vs. Case* ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using.

These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS

should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

I was born and raised on O‘ahu and I am not Native Hawaiian, but anyone who loves Hawai‘i must not support its misuse. The best thing the Army can do to protect Hawai‘i is to de-occupy the lands and return them to Native Hawaiian stewardship.

From: Kristen Young  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Kristen Young  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 12:33:38 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY NAME IS: Kristen Young

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] POAMOHO  
BECAUSE...

not only does the leasing of these lands NOT benefit the Hawaiian people, the people of the land; the use of these lands for military purposes also actively harms the land and contributes to destruction and desecration. For too long, Hawai'i has been taken advantage of, the people and land disrespected and disregarded to prioritize profit and power for a select few. I hope that those with authority might choose to value life, the land and its people, above all else.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent

RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anāe and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and

properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination.

Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world.

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monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but

I-1955

decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

PLEASE ADD ANY PERSONAL  
COMMENTS HERE.

I was born and raised on O'ahu and I am not Native Hawaiian, but anyone who loves Hawai'i must not support its misuse. The best thing the Army can do to protect Hawai'i is to de-occupy the lands and return them to Native Hawaiian stewardship.

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I-1956

Lille Youngbauer

The U.S illegally invaded Hawaii 123 years ago and continues to colonize Hawaii for military profit with the use of military leases despite protests from both native Hawaiians and other millions of supporters across multiple states.  
Return and restore all land to the people of Hawaii. Redistribution of both industrial and private non native land occupation, as well as any necessary funding for adjustment.  
Nothing less is adequate.  
Oregon Resident

**From:** [Lille Youngbauer](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Stop U.S Occupation of Hawaii immediately  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 22:01:24 PM

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The U.S illegally invaded Hawaii 123 years ago and continues to colonize Hawaii for military profit with the use of military leases despite protests from both native Hawaiians and other millions of supporters across multiple states.  
  
Return and restore all land to the people of Hawaii. Redistribution of both industrial and private non native land occupation, as well as any necessary funding for adjustment.  
  
Nothing less is adequate.  
  
Oregon Resident

## Nathan Yuen

Okay. So I just want to -- my name is Nate Yuen. I'm a lifelong resident of Oahu.

And I just want to say that in her presentation, the speaker made continual reference to state-owned land. And that is problematic from a number of perspectives. So I don't think that the state of Hawai'i should be leasing these lands. I mean, it's not even the state of Hawai'i's land.

So I just want to say that there are many things that are wrong with the process. The military has not been a good support of the land. All the toxins -- the depleted uranium at Pohakuloa on the Big Island, and also in Makua Valley, the spent uranium rounds -- are having serious impacts on the water.

So, you know, the military is supposed to be cleaning this up. But it is not. I don't think it ever really intends to. It just intends to use the land to advance the interests of American empire and American corporatism. There's no really benefit to the people of Hawai'i. And these lands are crown lands, are some of our ceded lands that are supposed to be used for the benefit of the public.

So I'd say this process has been quite problematic. But it's actually a good thing that we're going through it, yes, because we do -- we do get to -- get a chance to challenge the assumptions that are behind this process. So thank you for allowing us to comment. Mahalo.

## Luis Zano

Stop colonizing Hawai'i! Leave the land and give it back to the Hawaiians.

## Anne Zellinger

AGAINST U.S Military Lease renewal for Poamoho, Kahuku, Makua, and Pohakuloa

I live on the North Shore of Oahu under the flight path and next to Kamehameha Highway which is used as a military corridor during maneuvers/exercises. This district is residential and the impact from increased traffic congestion, noise levels, and the potential risks of flight accidents is not warranted. Military missions are being re-evaluated as we wind down the US military involvement in world diplomacy. I think we in Hawaii should reassess the health and welfare of our community and aina vs the destruction caused by these maneuvers.

I am against renewing this lease.

I-1961

## Alexandra Zermeno

It's far too long we've let y'all take over things that are not yours!!! Shame on y'all Do better We just have to do better  
Sent from my iPhone

I-1962

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**From:** Alexandra Zermefio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 10:16  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Give Hawaii back

It's far too long we've let y'all take over things that are not yours!!! Shame on y'all Do better We just have to do better

Sent from my iPhone

## Shuochen Zheng

Continued use of explosives not only degrade soil quality and contribute to build up of heavy metals, it also increases soil erosion (via water and wind) and decreases water quality makai in the ocean. An example would be all the bare dirt and invasive grasses at Makua Valley, all of which contribute to fire risks. The use of explosives prevents native plant species from establishing as they're unable to compete with invasive species without conservation efforts to do invasive species removal. Training areas should be reduced and conservation areas for ecological rehabilitation areas should be enlarged. What was once fertile land that could have continued to provide an abundance of food for Native Hawaiians is now unable to support sustainable local agriculture. There should be consideration of reparations to local Native Hawaiian communities as well as strategies to ameliorate ecosystem destruction and soil degradation.



## Aipohaku

Tonight I lift the voices of my kupuna, whose signatures on the Ku'e Petition reminds me every day that my country is Hawai'i, and we have been under an illegal occupation since 1893. The U.S. military is unfamiliar of what consent is and why it is important on a collective and individual level. I am testifying tonight in opposition of the extended military leases of Hawaiian lands. It is 100 percent not okay for the military to be desecrating any of the land they train on. But to think their impact does not extend beyond training grounds are issues I am demanding for the U.S. military to hold themselves accountable to and for while conducting their EIS. One, the U.S. military does not and has never had our consent to be here. Two, the military cost of living allowance and other benefits are burdens forced upon the shoulders of Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiian residents. Three, the psychological war tactics taught to U.S. soldiers is a threat to Native Hawaiian communities; therefore, military personnel are causing violence in non-military environments. Four, as the military presence expanded in our islands, human sex trafficking has skyrocketed here in Hawai'i and across the world. These four points that I mentioned is only the tip of the iceberg. The U.S. military is nowhere to protect us. In closing, I would like to share the words of Auntie Max. Pack your ukana, which are your belongings, your opala, all the trash you created, go home, and don't ever come back. Under this alternative, the Army will pack their \*\*\*\* up and return to stolen land back to the Hawaiian Kingdom, the sovereign nation of Ko Hawai'i Pae 'Aina. Mahalo.

## Audrey

"Aloha. My name is Audrey, and I'm a resident of Makiki. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Kahuku, Makua, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt the lives of local community. The army has wrongfully leased the land from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expire 2029 this man should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo "

## Branson

My name is Branson [unintelligible]. I'm a kamaaina of the ahupuaa of Heeiea and a kanaka maoli. I would like to say that, you know, I'm very kind of frustrated because the alternative that I would like is not even available as a choice that was displayed through the presentation. On that the military has done and that alternative that I would prefer is rather than retainment is return of these lines to the proper land owners, which are the Hawaiian Kingdom, the crown and kuleana land owners and all the titles when it comes to these lands and the legalities I want to state that when it comes to the environmental issues, how this relates to the EIS, the social and other impacts upon Kanaka maoli are very much intertwined with our environment because in our worldview, we are of one ha, of one wai, and we are of I. we are Hawai'i too. So the impacts that affects our aina directly impact us as well. So when it comes to the legal issues that everybody's talking about regarding land ownership, you know, the illegality started with the illegal participation in usurping our monarchy under orders from Minister... who landed United States Marines here. This act will be known as an act of war by President Grover Cleveland now five years later after the overthrow of This fighting over 90% of our population of post the annexation. The United States Congress public passed a joint resolution called the new lens resolution. It's a joint resolution, not a treaty, it did not go to the two thirds process on voting ratification process in the Senate. So it's not even legal in your own constitutional laws and even in case law and it comes to join resolutions and action territories. Two parties need to come to an agreement. The republic of Hawaii was not the legal authority to convey it to the United States. So, even then it's not speculated, it's factually, you don't really own the land and you can see the whole value has not authority to lease them. Now, continuing on into further description about this illegality, on after World War Two the United States put Hawaii under the United Nations list of non-self governing territories up for decolonization and the decolonization act. However, in 1959 the United States to justify illegal occupation past resolution 1469 which is in reference to a referendum which never happened through the statehood act. This referendum, you know, going now to 1993 to show that it was never it never occurred and President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-115 known as the apology resolution. Where it states in one of its whereas clauses, whereas the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquish their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people are over there national lands. To the United States visit their monarchy, or through a plebiscite or referendum, thus admitting there's no referendum, even though I know people speculate on the apology resolution. And even if it did have a referendum, there was a quote sacred trust unquote involved in the United Nations Charter chapter 51 article 73E. So, you know, there's layers upon layers of illegalities, which are still being addressed today, by the way. When we look at just as recent as three years ago when the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner publish them or a memorandum in 2018 On the legal expert Dr. Alfred Murray's disasters investigation, where it states that it comes to the Hawaiian kingdoms political status. It's a quote on a sovereign nation state in continuity and quote meaning where we're legally The legal authority over these lands. So when it comes to these illegalities, you know, it's time for the military and all other arm branches. To address this issue of illegalities of land ownership until those things are addressed. There shouldn't be a motion, a move to retain these lines because they're not their your land to retain, they're furthering war crimes. There's no amount of money. I know people are talking about the dollar leases, but there's no amount of money that can further justify that illegal occupation of our land. These lands need to be returned. That's the bottom line. So it's very telling that the United States using the armed forces as Pirates of the Pacific. Are trying to strengthen their grip on our

island as further legal issues are happening in the international community has more attempt to investigate what's happening here in Hawaii. So with that being said, I would request that these lands be returned rather than retain to their proper land owners, which is the Hawaiian kingdom. Kingdom law supersedes that of American law when it comes to the international realm and international law of how politics works here in Hawaii. "

## Brianna

"Aloha. My name is Brianna, and I'm a resident of O'ahu. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resource to these areas. Destroying the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of local community. The army has wrongfully leased these land from state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo Nui loa. "

I-1969

## Daniel

Aloha, my name is daniel and i am resident of florida. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of mākua, kahuku, wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow to further damage the natural resources of this areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt lives of the local community.

I-1970

**From:** Isack Pavon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 4:50  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Hawaii's territory

Aloha, my name is daniel and i am resident of florida. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of mākua, kahuku, wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow to further damage the natural resources of this areas, destroy the natural habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually disrupt lives of the local community.

Diana

"Aloha. My name is Diana and I am the resident of California. I strongly opposed. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage and natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community specifically, Kanaka maoli, Native Hawaiians. The army has wrongfully least these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When, the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public, we must end US imperialism since Hawaii isnt even part of the US it was wrongfully overthrown and the Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown and their entire culture was impacted. I am strongly opposed to the the extension of these leases and I'm calling on the end of all US imperialism, especially in Hawaii. Thank you. "

## Gabriel

"Aloha. My name is Gabriel jus soli I am a resident of XXXX Honolulu, Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of the military bases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these lands will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually destruct the lives of the local community. The army, the US Army has wrong to release these lands from the state from for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expiring This land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you. "

I-1973

## Giovanna

Aloha. My name is Giovanna and I'm a resident of Provo, Utah. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military bases on the lands and Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas. Destroys natural habitat so native Hawaiian plants and animals can continually disrupt allies with a local community. The army has wrong please these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo

I-1974

## Hanalei

Aloha, please let me introduce myself. My name is Hanalei [unintelligible]. I represent AHA moku advisory council. AMAC. Several years ago I Actually asked military to do a clean up on the USOs. And then the army actually only did about two thirds of it and actually lacking transparency, there's another third I believe that they need to be cleaned up. And this only talking about the makai the ocean side of Farrington highway and yet also that the mauka side the mountain side is actually still littered with USOs. So, you know, so even military wants to lease the place again, So again, I mean, they need to clean it up and actually it's been a say over 80 years since Army has occupied Makua. I'm actually challenging that. Because I think it's time to move on and also the, the technology is a lot better than, than it was back then. So I don't think place would be useful for military Training anymore and I oppose that. I oppose having the military there again. So we're looking at the families going home families are displaced. In fact, right now, beachside this flocking flocking with tourists, stuff like that. So a lot of people right now in harm's way. And I think about the safety I'm concerned about people's health and safety because you know depleted uranium, all kinds of things like that. And then the army never really finished the job cleaning everything up. So why should we want to extend it again when they still have a lot of work to do. So I'm in a position of having Makua and also Wahiawa a few Schofield so. Yeah definitely would oppose it, and suggested military actually move on and not looking at renewing the lease. So actually, yes, find someplace else to do military training because it's really actually at this point. Obsolete. So this, this my stomping on it. So thank you very much. Aloha. "

## Heather

"Hi, my name is Heather and I'm a resident of California, although I do not live in Hawaii. I do have family there. And so I'm very invested in this cause I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military says on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. What an extension of these leases allow the military to further damage and natural resources of this area destroy the natural habitats native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army's wrongfully received from the state for one dollars in 1964 when the lease expires and 2029 this land up immediately restored to the public. Thank you. "

## Holly

"Aloha. My name is Holly and I'm a resident of California, but I'm strongly opposed the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The army is wrongfully leased these lands and when the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you, and I hope you all do the right thing. "

I-1977

## Ilona

"Hello. My name is Ilona and I'm a resident of New Jersey. I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continue to disrupt the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully least these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. "

I-1978

## Isabel

"Aloha. My name is Isabel, and I'm a resident of Wahiawa. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military bases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. As an extension of these leases, it will allow the military to damage the natural resources of these areas and destroy the natural habitat for Hawaiian Plants. And the lives of our local community. The army as wrongfully at leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expiring 2029 I believe that this one should be restored to the public and the native Hawaiians. Thank you for your time. "

I-1979

## Jerry

"Aloha. My name is Jerry. I'm a resident of Oahu am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage your natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continually disrupt the lives of the local community. The Army has the army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the lease is expiring 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public. Mahalo "

I-1980



## Jim

Yes. I'm calling in from the Big Island, from Ola'a area. And our main focus, of course, is Pohakuloa here, but I wanted to express solidarity with all the folks that testified, eloquent testimony this evening about no military lease extensions. And stand in solidarity with Hawaiian lands going back to Hawaiian hands. And stop the killing of our 'aina. I just want to make one point here. Our organization, Malu 'Aina, has documented 57 present and former military sites on Hawai'i island alone, totaling more than 250,000 acres that are in need of military cleanup. The estimated cleanup cost is in the billions or tens of billions of dollars. And I am the co-author of the book, "The Dark Side of Paradise", about the military presence in Hawai'i. And it documents many of the impacts of life under the gun of U.S. militarism throughout Hawai'i. The one point I want to emphasize is -- of one of those 57 sites on Hawai'i island is in the Aloha Forest, not very far from where I live. It had an organic farm for over 40 years. It's on the Stainback Highway. And the forest is the watershed for Hilo. And in the 1960s, the Army got a lease of state land in that forest area to do what they told the state was weather testing. Well, they lied. They tested chemical biological weapons in the Hilo watershed, one including sarin nerve gas. One-fiftieth of a drop kills you. Hunters in the area say that there are still areas in that forest where nothing grows today, more than 60, 70 years later. So that's the horrors of militarism. Thanks to Patsy Mink, the congresswoman who exposed that lie of military chemical biological weapons, the mayor at the time -- Shunichi Kimura -- spoke up and said cancel the lease; the military lied to us. And everybody pushed back, and the military lease was canceled. And we need the same today. And tonight's testimony has been in that direction. No more lease extensions. It's time for cleanup, not further military buildup. Thank you.

## Leila

Aloha my name is Leila and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākuā, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually distrust the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land be immediately restored to the public.

**From:** [Bugala, Amy L CIV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Pate, Daisy Berbert CIV USARMY CEPOH \(USA\)](#); [Wahl, Gregory T CIV USARMY USAG \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Land (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:47:29 AM

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Oahu EIS comments

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**From:** Carrot Water [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 2:58 AM  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF USAG List Community Relations <usarmy.wheeler.usag.list.community-relations@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land

Aloha my name is Leila and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Mākua, Kahuku, Wahiawā. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitat of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and continually distrust the lives of the local community. The army has wrongfully leased these lands from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land be immediately restored to the public.

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

## Kalani

"Aloha. My name is Kalani and I live on Oahu. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. My people have suffered enough. If you care about the aina, native plants and animals then you will take the time to hear our concerns. Mahalo"

## Katie

"Hello, my name is Katie [unintelligible] and I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku. As an extension of the leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources that area and destroy the natural habitat of Native Hawaiian plants and animals. And continually disrupt the lives of our local community. Look at the army has wrongfully receive love from the stage for \$1 since 1964. When the lease expired and lease expires in 2029 the land should be immediately restored to the public. Thank you so, so much for your time. I hope you Listen to the people who oppose the military leases on this land. Thank you so much for your time. "

I-1985

## Kennedy

Hello, my name is Kennedy and I'm a resident of the Big Island. I wanted to call and say I'm very, very opposed to the extension and military leases. And the reason I'm opposed is because I'm concerned about the natural habitat and biodiversity of the plans and also the effect it has on Native Hawaiian culture by destroying these places. And not to mention also that the leasing of these lands is wrong in the first place, so absolution should be extended. Okay, thank you.

I-1986

## Koutaro

I can speak louder. Aloha kakou. My name is Koutaro, international graduate student at U.H. Hilo. I am from the illegally occupied island of Okinawa, so as a Native Okinawan, I know that the military doesn't protect the people. They only want the land as territory. In my island, drinking water is contaminated. One of the most beautiful oceans in the world, Henoko, is now being landfilled for a new U.S. Marine base. And many U.S. soldiers commit a lot of crime and get away from being arrested, and many more destructive impacts on us. So I know how kanaka maoli feel about their land being taken away. So, please, before you talk military merit or just to take it, please respect and listen to native people's voice. So as a native of Okinawa, I'm oppose to this renewal of land lease. Mahalo and aloha.

I-1987

## Ku'uleikuponookealoha

"Aloha. My name is Ku'uleikuponookealoha I'm a medical professional practices in Wahiawa. I am concerned for the ongoing leases to the military on the island of Oahu and other islands for not only the environmental impact, but the cultural impact it has on the hawaiian people. Wahiawa is the piko of the island, yet many of the Hawaiians struggle with health, fitness, food insecurity. And desecration to the environment has a generational impact. So I would like to see the lands returned to the Hawaiians, so that we can restore and regenerate our land so that we can share for our people. Mahalo "

I-1988

## Rachel

"Aloha. My name is Rachel and resident of the state of California and I am, I'm calling because I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas and destroy Natural Habitats of native Hawaiian plants and animals, continuing to disrupt the livelihood of the local community. The army has wrongfully least these lands from the state for just one dollar in 1964. When the lease expires in 2029 this land should be immediately restored to the public and Native Hawaiians. mahalo "

I-1989

## Ronnie

Aloha. My name is Ronnie and I'm from the resident of ... And And I am strongly opposed to this tension of the military lease on the lands of the Makua ... You all just need to stop. Like, really, why are you all bombing these things that need help. You really do. Because I don't understand why you want, why you all bomb this stuff. You killing things, you messing up the land. Just because you want to bomb stuff. So you want to go somewhere else with that. That would be very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

I-1990

## Senti

Aloha. My name is Senti, and I'm a resident of the mainland--in what is now called Portland--and strongly opposed the extension of military leases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa--sorry, my mispronunciation. I am a settler of these lands and I am not a native Hawaiian. An exclusion of these leases will have military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals. And continually destruct the lives of the local community, many of which are houseless because they cannot afford to live in their own land, due to the United States intervention and continuous tourism and mainlanders moving to the islands. The Army has wrongfully leased these land from the state from the state for \$1 since 1964. When the leases expire in 2029, this land should be immediately restored to the public. This shouldn't even be an issue that we're discussing. The Native Hawaiians are put into the street and told you, and they're water is shut off so the people like me white settlers can have a pleasant time on land that were never mine never will be mine. I just want you to look into your heart and look into your better judgment. This is not about money. This is not about what the military can get from this as a human being. This is the only Earth we have and islands are even more vulnerable to Environmental degradation, because there's nowhere for anything else to go. The animals on the islands have only one place to be the humans have only one place to be, humans are animals anyway. The degradation of that land is detrimental to our earth. Please.

## Shanny

Aloha. Yes, my name is Shanny, and I'm a resident of Keaau on the Big Island. I'm calling because I'm strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will allow the military to further damage the natural resources of these areas, destroying natural habitats of Native Hawaiian plants and animals and continuously disrupt the lives of the local community. It is to my understanding that the army has wrongfully leased land from the illegal state of Hawaii for \$1 since 1964 and when these lands expire the lease, these leases expire in 2029, this land should immediately be restored to the public and then Native Hawaiians, thank you.

Tawna

"I oppose the renewal or re-leasing of any lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho because... The land belongs to Hawaii and the Hawaiian people. Return it to them.

**From:** Tawna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 22:28  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho - Tawna

**Koa Futures**  
EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

Entry Details

MY NAME IS:	Tawna
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:	[REDACTED]
I RESIDE IN:	Honolulu, Hawaii
I AM:	A resident of O'ahu
"I OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OR RE-LEASING OF ANY LANDS AT MĀKUA, KAHUKU, AND POAMOHOBECAUSE..."	The land belongs to Hawaii and the Hawaiian people. Return it to them.

## Tyler

Aloha. My name is Tyler. I'm a resident of Honolulu. I am strongly opposed to the extension of military leases on the land of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. An extension of these leases will be will allow military to further damage natural resources of these areas, destroy the natural habitats needed for and plants and animals into your story disrupt the lies that local community. Obviously, you've heard this script before the things that I would like to point out are that there are an inefficient amount of public access trails. That are not as well maintained as they could be to help support the native Hawaiian ecosystem of plants and animals. The lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa are vast and hold a large amount of biodiversity and I as a resident of the state and as a citizen of the world that is slowly crumbling all around us in terms of biodiversity would love to see those lands be protected. So that this wonderful place can be enjoyed for generations to come. And not just be simply used as a place for military training exercises when there are already plenty of other military training options around the island. I believe also in fact that it's being purchased for \$1 when it could possibly bring in billions millions of dollars for tourism, ecotourism, sustainability of those resources for the suitable future of Our human existence would be way more impactful than I think 50 years of military training which can be done in numerous other places. Thank you for your consideration. I really do appreciate it. Thank you guys for setting this up. I do really appreciate the opportunity to have my voice be heard and we hope that these views are considered with the weight in which I believe that they are spoken. And thank you. Mahalo

I-1995

## Unidentified Caller #1

"I just wanted to call to say that the US military lease extensions on Hawaiian public land should be stopped. Thank you. "

I-1996



## Unidentified Caller #2

"Aloha. My name is [unintelligible]. I strongly oppose the leasing of land to the military for war game practices and whatever they need that land for. It does damage to our environment. So I would like you to please, please. My concern is an endangered plants and Native Hawaiian birds and insects and everything that they impact or just the land itself of how their heavy equipment, their ammunition, whatever they do it there. We hear you know whatever they do we know that It's detrimental to the land and the environment and they say that they need to do this to protect us. But who is protecting us from them and the things that they do to the land? on the only reason why you have a fight is because you You upset somebody so there's no reason to to have a war if no one has had, you know, is causing the fight. So I promote peace and so I really feel that having the military presence causes more harm than any good and just the negative impact that their military practices on has on the environment, it's detrimental to the land and to the future. Thank you for allowing me to share my comments. "

I-1997

## Unidentified Caller #3

"I oppose the extension of the leases in Makua, Wahiawa, and Kahuku. The military should not have their leases extended. Enough already. You guys are doing enough damage. Thank you. "

I-1998

## Unidentified Caller #4

"Aloha. So I just wanted to share that I do not support the leasing of Hawaiian Native Hawaiian lands for \$1 I appreciate so much Everything that the military does it have family members that were in the military family members that are still in the military, and I appreciate everything that the military does For us Native Hawaiians, and for people that live on the island of Oahu and all of the islands, the Hawaiian chain. I appreciate it a lot, but I do not support. The military leasing Hawaiian Islands for \$1 a year, so like that is extremely ridiculous, especially because of the displacement of Hawaiians. And the fact that we are trying so hard just to survive. Not even just aligned, but people trying to survive on the island of Oahu and several other islands, I do not support this and what I hope Is that the leasing stops. I do not support it at all. I do appreciate everything that the military does. Hawaiian, Native Hawaiians, especially Our displeased, even at the beaches everywhere along the island. All you see is military and the fact that military is able to lease native lands and to destroy the native lands is just ridiculous and I do not support it at all. And I just wanted to voice that. Mahalo again so much for listening to what I have to say, and for allowing me to voice my opinion. But I just wanted to ku'e and stand against this and let you guys know that I do not support this, that I as a native Hawaiian do not support this mahalo "

## Unidentified Caller #5

"Aloha. My name is [unintelligible] and I'm currently a resident of Manoa, O'ahu and a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I'm speaking today in solidarity with kanaka maoli against the extension and military bases on the lands of Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. This illegal annexation of Hawaiian land is an act of violence. Policing of stolen Hawaiian land is an act of violence. The utilization of these lands to train people to murder is an act of violence. Filing billions of taxpayer dollars to kill civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Syria and more ravaged the homes and lives of billions of people is an act of violence. The US military industrial complexes and violence institutions. Growing up in Southeast Asia. I witness how us capital of hegemony has and continues to control the global order. After moving to Hawaii quickly learned that the military is one of the most powerful institutions in the world, is a tool that you use to perpetuate patriarchal white supremacist violence. I learned that have what you value through the lens of extended ability to have people going to come all the proceeds unexploited a puppet and what the Pentagon calls the quote unquote center of indo-pacific fear. I learned the US military is apathetic towards kanaka maoli, Micronesians, Marshallese, and all other Pacifica and black communities being devastated and dispossessed. I learned that the United States as an imperial core functions to uphold the marginalization of black indigenous communities and people of color across the world. Especially in the global south or using national security at the past time excuse. We see this with Kahoolawe, Pohakuloa, Bikini atoll, and the Red Hill underground storage tanks right here on Oahu just to name a few of the countless examples. We do not in a crash course to see Hawaii and its people are designated as sacrifices. The army is wrongfully leased these lands from the fake state of Hawaii for \$1 since 1964. Starting now and leading up to 2029 these lands should be needing to be cleaned up, restored, and returned to kanaka maoli. Then military must pay reparations to the communities, upon which they have caused destruction and intergenerational trauma. No further evaluation is needed. Mahalo for an opportunity to justify.

## Unidentified Caller #6

"Aloha. I believe the army is helpful in a way but I don't believe in fighting is a way to resolve issues, perhaps, if the land was used to teach military to plant seeds and plant crops, then they can pass it on to their enemies into establishing more green food. Green as in shady because of our planet being over heating. So, If it can be used the land in non fighting military use of weapon, then I would strongly disapprove. But if they can be used for showing military garden in farming techniques to offset global warming and help other countries survive in a better way than combat with by force, then I would say yes, let's have the military use the land along with Hawaiians to or other civilians to grow food and crops, rather than to keep on destroying land with weapons. So that's why I disagree upon how the military uses the land. Currently, if they would change their policies to construct a positive way to make Hawaii or even the world a better place. I would say yes, allow a military to use the land for better. Thank you. You understand there's two sides of a story. We do need military in a way. And we end, but we don't need to show how to destroy, we should learn how to build and protect the land. Thank you very much. Okay, bye bye "

## Unidentified Caller #7

"Hello, my name is....and I am a kanaka maoli whose ancestors have inhabited these islands for generations back to pre-contact times. Today I'm calling to voice my opposition to the extension of military leases in Makua, Kahuku, and Wahiawa. There are too many houseless Hawaiians who are also forced to depend greatly on imported goods and this land should be used to provide for Hawaiis people. Mahalo"

## Unidentified Caller #8

"My name is [unintelligible]. I do live in the United States, the mainland. I have friends in Hawaii. And I am strongly opposed to your military extension of The lands on Makua, Kahuku. You make sense when you do these things. I mean, The military part is ridiculous, in and of itself. Your message, even in your voicemail is ridiculous. You do not a property of these lands. You damaged, these lands. What you're doing isn't right. Thanks. "

I-2003

## Unidentified Caller #9

"Yeah, I'm I am calling in response to this EIS. We want the military out of Hawaii. We think that \$1 for all the land 25-26% of the land in Hawaii, that has been militarized, we want that back. We do not want destructive practices with bombs and guns In our communities and on our aina, and we do not like the toxins as well that the military has left behind. Pohakuloa, Makua, Schofield All of these places on Oahu and the Big Island is every other place that the military occupies is poisoned. We do not want this militarized station and war mongering here in Hawaii, we want the military to leave. Bye.

I-2004

## Unidentified Caller #10

"Hello, I'm in opposition of extended leases with the military for the areas of Kahuku, Makua, and Wahiawa. And also in regards to that EIS statement, unless you have cultural practitioners that can assist archaeologists in the sacredness of these areas, then I believe that your EIS, it may not be of great work and may not satisfy the community and the people of Hawaii. Thank you. "

I-2005

## Unidentified Caller #11

"So I know you know this already, but my concerns are that the US military has no legal right to be in Hawaii at all, let alone leasing property from an entity it installed in Hawaii without the people avoid being able to be proactive. And you should be aware of that. And you know that you are you, I'm guessing that you are, but so there should be no more leases to the military because all the military does here in Hawaii is unload ordinance and not clean it up. Why? They say they are going to clean it up and then don't. Well, that's my experience with the Navy. The Army can't be far behind. There's a lot of mess to clean up and I don't see them doing any of it. And the other members of the military or the armed forces all out there. What are they doing? Well, they're training, they're not cleaning, they're training and I get it, you need to train, but you also need to clean up after yourself like grown ups. And, So, no more, no more leasing Hawaiian lands. We have very little of it left. Stop."

I-2006

## Unidentified Caller #12

Aloha. I am a native Hawaiian And I'm in opposition of the renewal of any leases. Which result to the desecration of our land. Kealoha 'aina.

I-2007

## Unidentified Caller #13

[Translated from Hawaiian to English: "Want to lease our birth lands (sands), our rich/valuable lands where our pua liko grows. In my understanding there are lease documents from a long time ago.

Unbelievable, you paid only a dollar a year (or- only a dollar a year was paid for these lands). You think it's funny, maybe, but in my opinion, this is real theft indeed. Pualikoa was taken, the rich/valuable place of our men, of our people.

Here is the truth indeed. We don't have or want your money for our birth lands. Therefore, I stand up against the leasing again of our land, that you get it again. Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa Pohakuloa. Return our lands at Makua, Kahuku, Wahiawa and Pohakuloa. And return all our ancestral lands. Thank you"]

I-2008

## Anonymous

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai‘i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai‘i courts have also acknowledged the state’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina. The leasing of ‘āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need ‘āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The “highest and best use” of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer greater benefit to the public good. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts. The EIS process currently considers a “no action alternative” as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai‘anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored. Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from ‘āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the “fair treatment of all people”. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences”. The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial relationship to ‘āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O‘ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities

of Hawai‘i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai‘i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai‘anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawaihoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with Chromolaena odorata, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai‘anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to “mālama ‘āina” and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice. Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo‘olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires “meaningful involvement” of impacted communities such that “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

From: [notifications@ecognitiforms.com](mailto:notifications@ecognitiforms.com)  
To: USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho -  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 13:53:27 PM

## Koa Futures

### EIS Scoping Comments for Army leases at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments on the O'ahu EIS project for military leases on public lands at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho. Please find my comments below.

#### Entry Details

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:



I AM:

A resident of O'ahu

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOW COMMENTS REGARDING THE ARMY'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WHICH PROPOSES TO RETAIN UP TO 6,300 ACRES OF LAND ON O'AHU FOR MILITARY TRAINING PURPOSES.

Much of this huge expanse of 6,300 acres of land are former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which were seized following the illegal overthrow and subsequent illegal occupation. These lands are currently held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public. Under the state constitution, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative fiduciary duty to ensure that use of public trust lands serves trust beneficiaries. Hawai'i courts have also acknowledged the state's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina. The leasing of 'āina for \$1 a parcel for 65 years is a potential breach of these duties, as is any additional lease. The exploitation of land for warmaking harms trust beneficiaries while foreclosing potential alternatives that better serve public good. We need 'āina for agriculture, housing, hunting, cultural practice, wellbeing, open space, and conservation. The "highest and best use" of these lands is not military retention, but instead includes these alternative uses that offer

greater benefit to the public good.

These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. As such, the EIS should analyze the cumulative effects of these leases in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and in relation to the accumulation or synergistic interaction of other military impacts.

The EIS process currently considers a "no action alternative" as a baseline against which to compare other preferred alternatives. However, the Army must thoroughly consider this alternative and address the positive social, health, and cultural benefits of returning and restoring land. For example, since the suspension of live-fire training at Mākua Military Reservation, Mālama Mākua has created transformational opportunities for cultural access, education, and healing for many people in Wai'anae and the broader community. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of the benefits that would accrue to Native Hawaiians and the general public if these lands were returned and properly restored.

Retention of these lands for military training exercises reproduces collective psychological and intergenerational trauma that disproportionately harm Kānaka Maoli by further alienating Native Hawaiians from 'āina. Additionally, the long-term leasing of Hawaiian lands to the occupying military creates a sense of entitlement that further constrains Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires the "fair treatment of all people". Fair treatment means "no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences". The EIS must address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on Native Hawaiians as a result of their genealogical and familial



relationship to 'āina, the ongoing suppression of their sovereignty at the hands of the United States, and the use of ancestral lands for military aggression around the world. These three leases are part of a much broader network of military occupation. The US military controls nearly a quarter of all land on O'ahu. The Council on Environmental Quality acknowledges that the most devastating environmental effects may result not from the direct effects of a particular action, but from the combination of individually minor effects of multiple actions over time. In 1997, the CEQ produced a guide titled "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" which provides a framework for advancing environmental impact analysis by addressing cumulative effects in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement. The EIS should employ this framework in order to address the cumulative effects of all related military activities, not just the proposed project. US militarism has affected not only Kānaka Maoli, but other diverse communities of Hawai'i: US intervention in the Philippines; the nuclear bombings of Japan; military occupation with ecological and social damages in Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Korea; and radiation poisoning and dispossession of COFA citizens for the purpose of nuclear weapons testing. As a result, many Hawai'i residents suffer from psychological, physical, and intergenerational traumas that are exacerbated by retention of these lands for active military training. The EIS should address the disparate impacts that these leases will have on these communities. These military training lands are situated in communities that are majority working-class, people of color, and Native Hawaiian. Kahuku, Wai'anae, and Wahiawā already disproportionately bear the burden of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial and governmental uses of lands and resources. These communities deserve the same protection from environmental and cultural harm enjoyed by other more socio-economically privileged communities. The EIS

should consider the impacts of these leases in the context of the broader environmental justice issues faced by these communities. Retention of these lands entails further ecological damage to endangered species, soil and geological resources, and water resources. For example, in Kawailoa-Poamoho, the terms of the current lease prevented these critical conservation lands from being categorized as a Natural Reserve Area (NAR), which provides the highest form of conservation and protection to areas that are representative examples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems. In Kahuku, the area has become greatly infested with *Chromolaena odorata*, Devil Weed, which arguably came from Guam Training areas on military vehicles. At Mākua, the Army was found to have breached a court-ordered settlement by failing to test marine resources that are eaten by residents of the Wai'anae Coast to evaluate whether they posed a human health risk due to contamination from training activities. We call for any EIS to account for these kinds of negative impacts and to calculate costs of adequate funding of conservation and restoration after the return of these affected lands. In the Ching vs. Case ruling, the court found the state to have a trust duty to "mālama 'āina" and that the state had failed to perform regular monitoring and inspections at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. Similarly, at Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court-ordered settlement obligations. Any EIS should therefore include disclosure of the extent to which the US Army and the state have complied with its obligation, HEPA, and other lease-specific conservation provisions, and include a thorough investigation of the entire parcel to determine whether there are any military debris or pollutants on the lands that the US military has been using. These three areas contain documented archaeological and historic sites, including Native Hawaiian cultural sites and resources that are still relevant for cultural practice.

Impact assessments must be based on thorough surveys and subsurface archaeological investigations to determine the eligibility of sites for the National Registry of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties designation and should specifically examine infringements on the National Historic Preservation Act. Many sites on these parcels are also connected physically or through mo'olelo to registered cultural and historic sites on adjacent parcels. Oral history and ethnographic interviews with genealogical descendants and former residents of the affected areas must be incorporated into the study. The EIS should also disclose any previous monitoring and documented impacts to these sites and impact statements should address the integrity of these sites as well as the need for unrestricted cultural access. Environmental justice (EJ) as defined by the EPA requires "meaningful involvement" of impacted communities such that "decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected." Given the immense pressures that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our communities, the standard 40 day public comment period does not adequately meet the standard of meaningful engagement. Two virtual public meetings and neighborhood board presentations were conducted, but decisionmakers failed to bring opportunities for involvement to Wai'anae, Wahiawā, or Kahuku.

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## Anonymous

Leave the native land alone. You've taken so much from Hawaii already. They've been stripped of their heritage and sovereignty, the least you can do is let them keep their sacred land.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:23  
**To:** USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Oahu Land

Leave the native land alone. You've taken so much from Hawaii already. They've been stripped of their heritage and sovereignty, the least you can do is let them keep their sacred land.

## Anonymous

Hello,

In 2029, land leases on Hawai'i used for military purposes will be up. The indigenous peoples of Hawai'i are demanding for their land to be returned to their hands, and so I demand the same.

Please return stolen land back to the indigenous peoples who will care for and restore it, and stop any further damage to the land.

Thank you,A concerned US citizen.

**From:** [Roly Poly](#)  
**To:** [USARMY Wheeler AAF ID-Pacific Mailbox NEPA Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Land Leasing  
**Date:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 9:14:25 AM

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Hello,

In 2029, land leases on Hawai'i used for military purposes will be up. The indigenous peoples of Hawai'i are demanding for their land to be returned to their hands, and so I demand the same. Please return stolen land back to the indigenous peoples who will care for and restore it, and stop any further damage to the land.

Thank you,  
A concerned US citizen.