

**From:** [Anthony Farr](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I oppose D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:33:31 AM

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Kahuku park is being proposed to be appraised for possible sale to military. Please copy paste and add anything you'd like to say then send to:

[blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Ashley Galacgac](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:35:06 AM

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Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Ashley Ancheta Galacgac  
Pālolo, O'ahu

**From:** [Anna Mariano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:09:47 AM

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I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by the DAR. The aquarium fishery hobby provides jobs for many people and is so important to the economy. A ban, that does not use science as background information or take into account environmental impact statement, is negligent and negatively impacts communities.

Sincerely,  
Anna Mariano

**From:** [Alfred Medeiros](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:21:41 AM

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Aloha Chair and others involved in this act of Hewa...as a Kānaka Maoli born and raised in Hawai'i that has experienced firsthand the desecration and destruction that the U.S. Military has done to our home of Hawai'i and who's 'Ohana has dealt with it for generations upon generations...I speak on behalf of myself and my 'Ohana when we say A'OLE U.S. MILITARY!

They've done nothing but harm to our home of Hawai'i, our natural resources and to the people since they've been here...from Pōhakuoa to Mākua, with the most recent Kapūkakī(Red Hill) and we can't forget what they've done to Kaho'olawe.

With that being said...why should they be given the opportunity to buy any land? Or what is being seen as an ILLEGAL LAND GRAB! They've done wrong, they've never done right and this would be like letting a rapist to continue to fuck you, even if it's wrong and you don't want them to!

Sorry for my vulgar language, but maybe you'll feel the intensity of this issue at hand and understand how much trauma the U.S. Military has caused us here in Hawai'i and it's not only to Kānaka Maoli and Hawaiians...look at Red Hill and what they've done to their own!

We must protect our home and ensure our future generations have a Hawai'i to call home and clean natural resources for centuries to come.

In 2029 the leases are up and it's a must that they clean up their mess, return the lands they've desecrated to the people and Hawai'i...and get out of Hawai'i.

That's the best option and many won't feel the same, but majority agree and it's time to listen to the people and not the dollar sign.

Mahalo for your time and I hope you take this testimony into consideration, as I write this with the utmost respect.

Aloha e mālama pono

-Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros

**From:** [Aukai Townsend](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:54:38 AM

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I, (Aukai Townsend ), oppose D2. Keep it open

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jasmine Abila](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:46:21 AM

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I OPPOSE D2!

Kahuku MotoX is one of the only areas that it is legal for residents to ride. It's a safe area for family, and children to hone their skills and to learn safety and riding with respect. Please do not allow the land to be purchased. So many problems like riding illegally on the beach and streets will occur. Keep Kahuku MotoX how it is.

**From:** [Dawn Adele](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the U S Army wanting to acquire state leased land  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:10:51 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Dawn Adele



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

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**via** [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. Dawn N.S. Ching, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Land Board Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Re: Land Exchange of the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Island of Hawai‘i and O‘ahu Training Areas**

Aloha Chairperson Chang, and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (“DPH”) to provide comments relating to the United States Army training land retention efforts for the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawai‘i and for Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Makua Training lands on the Island of O‘ahu and authorizing the Chairperson to negotiate, approve and execute a contract for appraisal services to determine the fair market value of currently leased land by the United States Army.

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i has an enrolled membership of over 120,000 active and associate members in the State of Hawai‘i. The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party is a semi-autonomous organization of over 7,500 DPH 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 quoted below.

Fundamentally, we object to the proposed land exchange or renewal of the lease of 22,971 acres of stolen, ceded State lands (Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §343-5(a)(1)) in a Conservation District (HRS §343-5(a)(2)) and county Forest Reserve that was entered into between the Army and the State of Hawaii in 1964 in consideration of \$1.00 for a 65-year lease to expire in 2029. For multiple reasons summarized here, we object to the proposed land exchange and or continuation of the lease and the continued failure of the Army to adequately clean up the site

The reasons for this opposition are simple: 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. 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 can present an ongoing threat or risk to the public. 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>

There are 25 hazardous sites at the PTA. Many of these sites have been declared “clean” by the DOD but are still not safe for use by people. This military installation is safe only with the following conditions in place: fences, signs, local use ordinances, prohibit or otherwise manage excavation, prohibit residential use, landfill restriction, prohibit activities that would impact the landfill cap (or cover system), and drainage system, landfill restriction - prohibit excavation on landfill cap or cover system, landfill restriction - restrict access to the site.

Currently, the PTA has one HIGH RISK active site where cleanup remains ongoing. The Pu’u Pa’a site is of high risk and is subject to the removal of unexploded munitions and ordnance at an estimated cost of \$90 million plus expected future cost of cleanup and an expected final cleanup action to occur in November 2045. The high risk assessment is made by the DOD which prioritizes the cleanup of sites that pose greatest threat to safety, human health, and the environment.

A second site subject to removal of unexploded munitions and ordnance is located at the former Bazooka Range. Its cleanup cost in 2015 plus future cost of cleanup was expected to be \$1.7 million with a final cleanup action in June 2017.

The other 23 inactive sites are: (1) Humu’ula Sheep Station – West Training and Maneuver Area (explosives and munitions cleanup, restricted access, 2012); (2) Landfill 2 (WSC#7) (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1997); (3) PBA@MMRP Pōhakuloa (explosives and munitions cleanup, restricted access, 2008); (4) former FFTA PIT (WSC#11) Fire/crash Training Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1997); (5) former STG Area behind Building T-31 (WSC#12) spill site area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1997); (6) Artillery Firing Area Powder Burn (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1994); (7) Impact Area (WSC#1) Unexploded munitions and ordnance area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1990); (8) POL Storage Area (WSC#3) Spill Site Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1995); (9) Underground Storage Tanks Sites (7) (WSC#4) (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1990); (10) Maintenance Area (WSC#5) Spill Site Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1995); (11) Ammunition STG Magazines (8) (WSC#8) Spill Site Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1990); (12) Foam Storage Shed (WSC#9) Spill Site Area (hazardous substances cleanup, 1990); (13) Underground Storage Tanks Site (WSC#10) (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1990); (14) Former Transformer STG Area (WSC#13) Spill Site Area (hazardous substances cleanup, 1995); (15) 43 Septic tanks/12 Leach Wells (WSC#15) Surface Disposal Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1990); (16) Underground Storage Tanks Bldg 186 (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1994); (17) Vehicle Refueling Area Maintenance Yard (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1997); (18) Equipment Storage Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1996); (19) Abandoned Landfill 1 (WSC#6) (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1997); (20) Humu’ula Sheep Station-East Unexploded Munitions and Ordnance Area (Explosives and Munitions, restricted access, 2006); (21) Bradshaw Field Storage Area (WSC#2) Spill Site Area (hazardous substances cleanup, restricted access, 1995); (22) Kulani Burn Pile Burn Area (Explosives and munitions, no access, 2013); (23) Kulani Boys’ Home Unexploded Munitions and Ordnance Area (Explosives and munitions, no access, 2012).

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

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 cannot be accomplished by the continuation of military training at Pōhakuloa as the land can never be restored and enjoyed even after thirty years of cleanup.

PTA is not the only site of subject to hazardous substances, explosives and ordnances necessitating numerous cleanups, In fact, there are 115 Military Installations with hazardous sites in the State of Hawai`i with a total past and future cleanup cost of \$2.77B 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
WAIKAKALAUVA 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

<b>BELLOWS AIR FORCE STATION</b>	28	BELLOWS AFS	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION</b>	10	O'AHU	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>PEARL HARBOR NSB</b>	7	PEARL HARBOR	Honolulu	Medium Risk
<b>JFHQ HI ARNG</b>	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 terrible record of the U.S. military in exercising its stewardship responsibilities as a lessee of lands in the State of Hawai'i.

Given the multitude of Military Installations throughout the State of Hawai'i that remain 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 retention of the PTA for the continuation of uninterrupted military training pursuant to NEPA, 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 this section makes the Public Trust Doctrine ("PTD") a fundamental element of Constitutional Law in the State of Hawai'i.

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 Public Trust Doctrine. 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]

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i opposes the proposed land swap or renewal of the 65-year lease for PTA between the U.S. Army and DLNR.

The Army Training Land Retention area at PTA is not in compliance 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, the continuous act of maintaining (1) live-fire and non-live-fire artillery firing points; (2) ranges for mounted, dismounted, and aviation training; and (3) support facilities, including ammunition storage areas and helicopter and tilt-rotor aircraft landing zones fails to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment as the environment suffers irreparable harm; fails 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 fails to stimulate the health and welfare of man; and it fails to enrich the understanding of the rare ecological systems and natural resources and wildlife important to the Nation.

There are several other reasons why the State of Hawaii would not want to accept a potential land exchange with the Army for Pohakuloa Training Area and Oahu Training Areas. These include cultural, historical, and as previously mentioned *supra*, environmental impacts.

**Cultural Impacts:** The PTA is home to more than 300 state-registered archaeological sites. Native Hawaiian have been present in the area as far back as the 1400s – 1600s, leaving behind cultural shrines, habitation caves, burial sites, and pictographs. If the Army were to own these training areas in fee simple, there could be significant impacts on these cultural resources. While these impacts can be mitigated through appropriate consultation with Native Hawaiians and/or other interested groups, there is still a risk of damage or loss of these important cultural sites.

**Historical Impacts:** The PTA has a rich history, having been used for military training since World War II. It has helped Army, Marine, Air Force, and Navy units maintain their combat readiness and prepare for war. If the Army were to own these training areas in fee simple, it could potentially impact the historical significance of these lands.

**Environmental Impacts.** The PTA is home to one of the world's rarest ecosystems: a tropical sub-alpine, and dryland ecosystem. The Army's Natural Resources staff identify, manage, and protect 15 threatened and endangered plant species while maintaining a cultivation and planting program. If the Army were to own these training areas in fee simple, there could be significant environmental impacts. The Army's land retention efforts would need to comply with both the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including the publication of draft environmental impact statements. However, even with these safeguards in place, there is still a risk of environmental damage.

The environmental damages from the continued military training use at PTA are substantial. We continue to oppose further retention of the PTA by the DOD as the risk of damage to the environment and ecosystem is great and the likelihood of restoration is low to the detriment of the Native Hawaiian community, the community at large, and indigenous plants and animals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments,

/s/ *Alan B. Burdick*

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

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

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

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

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

**From:** [Joie Agard](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote "NO" on Agenda Item D.2.  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:15:40 PM

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Aloha nō,

Please vote "NO" on Agenda Item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

With the end of the lease just 5 years away, I urge you to reflect on the damages done by the United States military on wahi pana (sacred places) throughout Hawaii. Kaho‘olawe, Kapūkakā (Red Hill), and Mākua are examples of what detriment can be caused due to unethical use of land for military training. For Kānaka Maoli, ‘āina is not just land, ‘āina is us! Kanaka cannot exist separately from ‘āina. We are one. The United States has occupied our wahi pana and has instructed the military to desecrate our land, therefore, desecrating us as the indigenous people of this land. Not only should the military lease end sooner than five years, but they must be held accountable to properly clean the area for safe use by collecting military shrapnel, repairing any damage to soil or the aquifer system, and removing and disposing of any unexploded ordinances. Our keiki should not have to fear finding an unexploded ordinance on at the kahakai (beach), up mauka (inland), or in their backyard. Our ‘ohana should not have to fear if their wai (fresh water) will make them ill. Our lāhui should not have to beg for our ‘āina to be rid of military occupation while we suffer from high rates of homelessness on our native lands. Please vote "NO" to keep our keiki safe, to help us heal our ‘āina, and to protect the lāhui. Listen to the indigenous people who demand justice for their ‘āina, honor their demands which have long been ignored, and Vote "NO" on Agenda Item D.2.

Na‘u nō,  
Joie Keala Agard  
Kanakanaka Maoli Wahine, Age 24  
Resident of Kalaoa, Hawai‘i

**From:** [Kawailoa Ahupuaa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testify at Meeting today at 9 am  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:01:52 AM

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Aloha,

I would like to testify on the D-2 agenda. I Leilani Oppose D-2



**From:** [Tiana Aina](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ITEM D-2 ON 4/12/24 BLNR MEETING AGENDA  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:22:45 AM

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Aloha,

I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE Item D-2 on the agenda for the BLNR meeting scheduled for 4/12/24. It seeks to provide authorization to the Chairperson to negotiate, approve, and execute a contract for appraisal services to determine the fair market value currently leased by the United States Army.

Historically, the United States Army has not honored commitments it made for the land it leased. Kaho'olawe prime examples of this, and even after decades of remediation efforts and hundreds of millions spent, 25% of the island is uncleared, according to an article, "The bombing of Kaho'olawe went on for decades. The clean-up will last generations" written by Lacy Deniz on February 27, 2018.

As the United States Army has not named the properties it proposes to offer in a potential land exchange, I wonder what condition those lands would be in, the surprise issues that may emerge decades from the land exchange, and the costs the State would need to assume in order for it to be safe to use. Remediation efforts are costly, and in the meantime, people pay for it with their health.

I believe that rejecting Item D-2 is a small step in shutting down this attempt by the United States Army to hold fee title for land it leases. Please consider the health of our people first, which is very dependent on the health of our land and environment. The United States has treated our land as disposal, and I fear what kind of harm will be done if they hold fee title without any checks and balances seeing what it does while it holds land leases.

I appreciate the Board's commitment to protecting the 'āina for the prioritizing the well-being of all.

Mahalo,

Tiana Aina

**From:** [K. Aitken](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:48:16 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Mahalo,  
Kahualani Aitken  
808-987-8576  
Kapa'au, HI

**From:** [Taecia Akana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:44:04 AM

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Aloha kāua,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

As a kanaka ʻōiwi from Waimānalo, and a scholar of Hawaiian, History, and Pacific Islander's studies, I have studied over and over again at the mismanagement and abuse caused to ʻāina by Western governments. Examples of these are Bikini Atoll, Red Hill water contamination, and the historical bombing of Kahoʻolawe. To contaminate the land greatly impacts native populations in negative ways, especially in relation to health and well-being, which are holistically tied to cultural values and knowledge. Furthermore, ʻāina is the elder. To harm that which feeds us is the biggest jump to our doom as people of this earth, as caretaker of Akua's creation. How can the government and military become so obsessed with destruction while actively, blatantly ignoring the current well-being of within? The Red hill and Lahaina communities are prime examples of such injustices and disconnects in this nation.

Mahalo.

Naʻu mau,

**Taecia Kukui Akana**

**I kanaka no 'oe ke malama i ke kanaka.**

UH HILO - [taecia@hawaii.edu](mailto:taecia@hawaii.edu)

**From:** [Akau Boys](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:43:08 PM

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I, Rylan, oppose D2. I disagree with our limited amount of land being stolen from us. It hurts to see what the community helped develop be taken away from them.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Fatass20 Rudi](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:24:38 AM

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I, (Alapaki), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [ianalcantra@gmail.com](mailto:ianalcantra@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:59:29 AM

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I, (Ian Alcantra), oppose D2.

**From:** [Bronson Alfafara-Pires](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12, Agenda item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:57:24 AM

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To whom may concern at the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am strongly opposed to the Army's request for appraisals and I am furthermore opposed to the sale and purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. I ask the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's request to appraise state leased lands.

Sincerely,  
Bronson Alfafara-Pires  
[bpomaikai@gmail.com](mailto:bpomaikai@gmail.com)

**From:** [brysen91@gmail.com](mailto:brysen91@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:24:51 AM

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I, (Brysen Ancheta), oppose D2.



**From:** [Manu A](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:32:29 AM

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I, (Manu Andrade), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shawlea Aona](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:54:57 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Unless the appraisal is to compensate the State of Hawai'i for destroying such lands, then the appraisal should not be necessary. Return the land to the State of Hawai'i and the Hawaiian people who can properly steward the land.

Thank you.  
Shawlea Aona

--

Shawlea K. Aona (S), MBA  
M 808.352.1558

**From:** [Yeshua Aquino](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:17:37 PM

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I urge you to vote against agenda item D.2. I am against granting authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

**From:** [Oni Arellano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:14:23 AM

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I, Keoni Arellano, oppose D2.

Aloha,  
Keoni J. Arellano

**From:** [Jamse Arnold](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:03:52 PM

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I, Jamse Arnold, oppose D2

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Corey Asano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to agenda item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:23:19 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to agenda item D.2 and urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. Granting such authority would only serve to further erode accountability and transparency in the management of lands crucial to our communities and natural resources.

The proposal to determine the "market value" of militarized lands in Pohakuloa, Makua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho raises serious concerns, particularly given the track record of the US Army in our communities. Time and time again, we have witnessed the detrimental impacts of military activities on our health, lands, water, and cultural sites, with little to no accountability or redress.

It is the obligation of the state to uphold the principle of "mālama 'āina" and ensure the protection and stewardship of the lands entrusted to its care, including those leased to the military. Instead of further relinquishing control and oversight, the state should be actively working to hold the US Army accountable for its actions and ensure the well-being of our communities and environment.

Granting authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of these lands would only serve to further remove accountability from both the state and the US Army, leaving our communities vulnerable to continued exploitation and harm.

I urge you to stand with our communities and oppose agenda item D.2. Let us work together to uphold the sacred duty of stewardship and ensure a sustainable future for our lands and people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
Corey Asano

**From:** [Trevor Atkins](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2: Land Appraisal  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:12:35 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an Appraisal of military lands.

BLNR is a steward. The chair is not the king or queen of these lands. The BLNR chair was not elected by the people of these islands. I appeal to you as a human. Is it right for you to appraise our collective lands? Is it right for you as a single human to trade or sell these lands? I did not elect you. You did not conquer me. You do not provide me food or shelter. You are not my king. You are not my queen. So, then how could one single person that I have no connection be able to sell our collective National lands? Please think of the way that Sanford Dole is now remembered as the chief thief of our nation, a fake leader who stole thousands of acres behind closed doors. How will YOU be perceived in 100 years?

Trevor Atkins  
Teacher, Community Organizer

**From:** [Mike Atkinson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:00:00 AM

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My name is Mike Atkinson and I live in Kaanapali on Maui

As a snorkeler on Maui for the past 20 years, I've witnessed the degradation of our reefs and the progressive depletion of Maui reef fish.

Please disallow the DAR West Hawaii plan to reopen the aquarium trade in the west Hawaii islands.

Maui reef fish are an important resource and should not be depleted by the aquarium trade.

Mahalo

Mike Atkinson  
370 Aalii Way  
Lahaina HI 96761  
808-667-6776 Home  
808-385-3406 Cell

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**From:** [De Austin](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Dezireen Austin](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to Proposed Military Land Swap, Pōhakula  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:38:31 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

In the past, I have supported the BLNR's decisions which were made for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, and the protection of our wai and aina. Today, I am so dismayed to learn of what I hope is a temporary lapse in leadership.

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula.

Hawaii has a state constitution which is unique among the other states: it provides protection for our elders, our water and our environment, as well as cultural practices. The movement of 1978 set these things in place to be assured of ongoing protection of these things for our kanaka maoli and other residents of the islands.

I am also deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

Furthermore, this proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety, due to unexploded ordinances and proximity to a public road.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to **reject the proposed land swap** for military training activities at Pōhakuloa.

Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

D. Austin  
Kihei, Maui

**From:** [bronson azama](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Virtual Request and Written Testimony for BLNR 4/12 meeting  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:03:33 AM

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‘Ano‘ai kākou,

I am submitting written testimony, and requesting virtual testimony on the following items:

[D. 2 Informational Briefing Update on the United States Army Training Land Retention Efforts for the Pōhakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawai‘i and for Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Training Lands on the Island of O‘ahu; and](#)

Authorize the Chairperson to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to Determine the Fair Market Value Currently Leased by the United States Army, Tax Map Keys (1) 5-8-002:002, 5-9-006:026; 7-2-001:006; 8-1-001:007 (por.), 008 and 012 (por.), 8-2-001:001, 022, 024, & 025; and (3) 4-4-015:008, 4-4-016:005. 7-1-004:007.

&

F.2

[Informational Briefing on Existing Fisheries Data and Management Considerations Related to the West Hawai‘i Commercial Aquarium Fishery](#)

My comments on D.2 are as follows:

No individual from the State of Hawai‘i should have the authority to further encumber land title, through actions that could result in land exchange/swap and the granting of fee simple lands to the Military.

It is amazing how in a technologically advanced society where we make artificial three-dimensional worlds, military training activities are still conducted which damage this one.

BLNR has yet to review a proposal of what terminating the leases looks like. How can these lands be reconverted to the people? We as a society are at a cross point, a future of poisoned water, degraded lands, and posturing if not triggering World War 3, however, as someone who will live through the consequences of the Boards decisions for decades, I remind the board it has a duty toward extra diligence in making decisions that involve military leases. The Board has not considered or reviewed any proposal for alternative use of these lands post-remediation.

No amount of money justifies the harm previous generations have left me and others in my generation to face when it comes to the overwhelming environmental and social challenges resulting from prolonged illegal occupation and military training on lands encumbered. I’d rather eat stones than hold my hands open for those who will harm our lands, our waters, and people here and abroad.

If I may remind members of the Board of a message expressed by U.S. President John F. Kennedy, a message from 60 years ago, “What kind of peace do I mean? what kind of peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I

am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children — not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women — not merely peace in our time but peace for all time."

I implore the members of the Board to reflect on this message, has it gotten better in 60 years? Wallets may be filled, but can you enjoy the tap from Navy water systems? Has war and its associated fear come to an end through the "security provided"? Or do our people respond to missile alerts? Dollar signs have not resulted in genuine peace, nor the reduction of hardship, it has worsened it without a solution close in sight.

If anything should be reviewed first, it's not the current appraisal, but what the value will be when we choose to work toward peace and not maintain the conditions of war.

### **My comments on F.2**

Aquarium fishing is not an industry that supports lawai'a practices but rather is 'aihue, stealing food from the mouths of our community. We should not develop an industry that adds further stress on our kin that is the fish and life in the sea, when they are already enduring environmental stresses caused by our current malpractice on land and at sea. Nor operating with baseline data that is based on population growth with those current conditions.

Before you take, give, that what was taught to me by my kūpuna. Until we create conditions healthy and supportive of our aquatic population we should not be adding to the harm. Support community groups to look at nonpoint source pollution and mitigate it before any action of taking.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope your actions bring us peace of mind and peace in the world, rather than further break our world in peaces.

Mahalo,  
Bronson Azama

**From:** [E Leimamo Azevedo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:15:26 AM

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Aloha mai 'oukou,

Please vote NO on agenda item D.2. As a wahine Kanaka Maoli and a Kumu Hula, I oppose in the strongest terms giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of 'aina Hawai'i currently leased to the United States military. As demonstrated by the Red Hill disaster and the long-term damage to Kaho'olawe island and its aquifer due to negligence and military "exercises," the US Military is neither willing nor capable of practicing malama 'aina as currently required under Hawai'i state law.

Giving the military these lands through a land swap or condemnation process would remove any and all accountability from both the State of Hawaii and the U.S. Military in their obligations to Hawaiian National Lands, public lands, and conservation lands, and takes Kanaka Maoli and all of Hawaii's people out of the picture. 'A'ole pono kela. Hewa kela.

He ali'i ka 'aina, he kauwā ke kanaka. 'Aina Hawai'i should not be sold nor given to the United States nor its military, for any purpose, at any time now or in the future.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
E Leimamohuluo O'ahu Ka'ōhi'alau Azevedo  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Barryn Chun](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote No on 20240412 Item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:41:55 AM

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**As a lifelong resident of O`ahu and Hawai`i, I strongly oppose 20240412 item D.2.**

There doesn't seem to be any way that acquisition of our land and natural resources by the US and its military, would actually benefit the people of Hawai`i. Especially given the US's track record of bombing said land in weapons tests, and contaminating an aquifer to the point it has harmed (and is likely currently harming) people using its water lines. Negligence that could actually be described as malicious. On top of all of it, this entity is actively funding and supporting a genocide halfway across the globe. Why would I, or any of us really, even think that giving this land to the US would be a "good" idea?

Growing up in Hawai`i, anyone would know that the real value of land to our own people, especially Kanaka Maoli, is not quantifiable. Invaluable beyond anything the US could offer. If D.2. were passed, it would raise the question of how well members of the DLNR actually serve the people of Hawai`i; as the idea of letting an overseas entity buy out land, is not favorable to the people here. Why exactly is a decision this big being made at 9am when most people are busy at work?

**Please vote NO on agenda item D.2. I strongly oppose giving authority to the Chair, or any member of the DLNR/BLNR to negotiate appraisals with the US. Please prove to us that you will manage— not sell out— our land and natural resources.**

Mahalo, Barryn Chun

**From:** [Bryce Johnson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:20:22 AM

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I, bryce Johnson, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bronson Bajo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony item D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:00:18 AM

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To whom this may concern,

Please vote NO on agenda item D2 I suppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate for an appraisal of military lands.

Serious regards,

Bronson Bajo  
Cell 8088617440

**From:** [Hailiopua Baker](#)  
**Cc:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSITION TO D2- MILITARY PURCHASE OF TRAINING AREAS  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:49:18 PM

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Aloha e ke Po‘o o ka BLNR, e Dawn N S Chang:

I am writing today to STRONGLY OPPOSE D2, the selling of our beloved lands to the Military. From Kaho‘olawe to Mākaha to Pōhakuloa to Waikāne to Vieques, and many more, the US Military has a track record of raping lands and leaving them abused and battered. We CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN! For the present and the future, it’s imperative that we maintain alodial tittle to our lands.

DO NOT SELL THE LANDS TO THE ABUSER!

This is a nefarious move and will have dire consequences for us as the Indigenous peoples of these islands. Do not further the destruction of our lands and the undermining of our birthright to protect our ancestral homeland.

Keep title and management of those lands so we, those who live here, especially us who descend from these lands, have say over the present and future of the lands.

Our lands are all we have, our genealogical ties to these islands are our identity, and once they’re gone or sold to the illegal occupiers, we Kānaka Maoli will be no more. You must consider our future and the future of generations to come.

Mahalo nui for hearing my testimony.

Ke aloha nō,

Tammy Haili‘ōpua Baker  
Artistic Director, Ka Hālau Hanakeeka



**From:** [Brooke Balady](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:40:02 AM

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I, Brooke Balady, oppose D2.

**From:** [Sierra Bangs](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item D-2 Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:45:04 AM

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Dear DLNR,

The most pressing issues affecting Hawaiians today are homelessness and pollution. Both of these issues are exacerbated by the overwhelming military presence in Hawaii. Land at Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa must be repatriated and rehabilitated.

The many spills at Red Hill and Pearl Harbor, the mess left from drills and unexploded ordinance at training grounds like Pōhakuloa, and the social issues of sexual assault and sex trafficking around US military bases are just a few of the many issues that Hawaiian citizens suffer from the occupation of the US military.

With the shortage of homes, especially after the Maui fires, we need more space for families and local workers. We need to foster a community of safety for humans and our precious, fragile and unique fauna and flora. If the US military wants to help protect Hawaii, they can start by cleaning up the mess they made, and giving the land back to the people.

Sierra Bangs

**From:** [Ikaika Baquiring](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:31:58 PM

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I,ikaika baquiring ), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony to Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources

RE: Concerning Item D.2 on 4/12/2024 Agenda – Land Division

Aloha,

I would like to protest the granting of power to one person, the Chairperson of DLNR to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to Determine the Fair Market Value Currently Lease by the United States Army. I believe your reason for doing this is to streamline and make a quick work of assessment because the leases for these training areas are coming to an end.

Although this is just the beginning of the process, we need to include more than one person to be responsible for it. My recommendation is to have at least 3 people in the process. Also, there would be guaranteed transparency at all points of Negotiation, Approval, and Execution of a Contract for Appraisal Services. This will ensure that the public will have full disclosure from the beginning of the land issue with the United States Army.

Our partnership as a State with the Federal Government using our land for military purposes needs to be reassessed for the future of Hawaii.

Please consider my advice for all your future dealings with the United States Army and Hawaii land. Transparency is key.

Mahalo,

Deborah Bear Barbour

Kaneohe resident

**From:** [Sophia Bard](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:28:10 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In Ching v. Case (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in Ching v. Case in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Sophia Bard  
San Antonio, Texas

**From:** [Sylvia Barnard](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:36:53 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama ‘āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Your Name, Town



**From:** [Leimaile Barrett](mailto:Leimaile.Barrett)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](mailto:DLNR.BLNR.Testimony)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: OPPOSITION to agenda item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:28:26 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Leimaile Barrett** <[leimaile.barrett@gmail.com](mailto:leimaile.barrett@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 7:59 AM  
Subject: OPPOSITION to agenda item D.2  
To: <[binr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:binr.testimony@hawaii.gov)>

Aloha ‘āina kākou,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to agenda item D.2 and urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. Granting such authority would only serve to further erode accountability and transparency in the management of lands crucial to our communities and natural resources.

The proposal to determine the "market value" of militarized lands in Pohakuloa, Makua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho raises serious concerns, particularly given the track record of the US Army in our communities. Time and time again, we have witnessed the detrimental impacts of military activities on our health, lands, water, and cultural sites, with little to no accountability or redress.

It is the obligation of the state to uphold the principle of "mālama ‘āina" and ensure the protection and stewardship of the lands entrusted to its care, including those leased to the military. Instead of further relinquishing control and oversight, the state should be actively working to hold the US Army accountable for its actions and ensure the well-being of our communities and environment.

Granting authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of these lands would only serve to further remove accountability from both the state and the US Army, leaving our communities vulnerable to continued exploitation and harm.

I urge you to stand with our communities and oppose agenda item D.2. Let us work together to uphold the sacred duty of stewardship and ensure a sustainable future for our lands and people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Leimaile Barrett

**From:** [Life Of the Animal Horder](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item D-2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:48:13 PM

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We urge the board to reject the proposal to appraise and exchange ceded land of equal value.

These lands should be protected and kept from harm. They are sacred wahi pana. We do not want to see the destruction and desecration of this 'aina. We do not want the military to harm our ecosystems any longer and we do not approve of the land being used as the military has for decades. We can't stress enough the importance to restore the military occupied lands to its prior, healthy state.

We do not approve the selling of land to the military, specially the land of pōhakuloa, mākua, kahuku, and kawaioloa.

Mahalo for reading my testimony

-River Barros

**From:** [nu bd](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 AND F3  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:48:20 AM

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I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Nick, Hawaii resident



Board of Land and Natural Resources

**Item D-2 Land Division**

Authorize the Chairperson to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to Determine the Fair Market Value Currently Leased by the United States Army, Tax Map Keys (1) 5-8-002:002, 5-9-006:026; 7-2-001:006; 8-1-001:007 (por.), 008 and 012 (por.), 8-2-001:001, 022, 024, & 025; and (3) 4-4-015:008, 4-4-016:005. 7-1-004:007

April 12, 2024

9:00 a.m.

BLNR Board Room

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides these comments for consideration of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR or Board) regarding item D-2 on today's agenda.

For nearly 150 years, the United States has sought to use Hawai'i for its military gain. The U.S. government's control over Hawaiian lands has often come due to coercion, manipulation or force. Additionally, when the military has returned lands to Hawai'i, we have found our beloved 'āina to be misused, neglected and injured. The U.S. military has then fallen short repeatedly of its kuleana to rehabilitate these lands.

As the State of Hawai'i considers the ends of its leases for multiple sites, we urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to remember this heartbreaking history.

OHA expresses its great concern that this Board will delegate its authority to the Chair for such important tasks as negotiating, approving and executing a contract for appraisal services to determine the fair market value of currently leased lands by the U.S. Army. The execution of such a contract should have board oversight. We believe BLNR oversight will ensure that the appraisal services contract will be carried out with fidelity and will be complete, comprehensive and considerate of the unique value of land in Hawai'i. Additionally, it will allow for transparency and public comment. This is especially critical in rebuilding trust with the Hawaiian community that has been broken by the U.S. military.

Further, OHA is concerned with the potential land exchange more broadly. We want to ensure that land exchanges are not done in haste. It is critical that BLNR be given the time that such weighty decisions deserve. These critical assessments deserve



Board of Land and Natural Resources  
**Item D-2 Land Division**

Authorize the Chairperson to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to Determine the Fair Market Value Currently Leased by the United States Army, Tax Map Keys (1) 5-8-002:002, 5-9-006:026; 7-2-001:006; 8-1-001:007 (por.), 008 and 012 (por.), 8-2-001:001, 022, 024, & 025; and (3) 4-4-015:008, 4-4-016:005. 7-1-004:007

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thoughtfulness, deliberation and extensive consideration. The Board must not be rushed if it intends to uphold its duty to our ‘āina.

The Board must also guarantee that any transfers ensure that lands formerly used for military purposes are completely and adequately restored to its original glory and are safe for Hawai‘i’s people. OHA strongly believes that the financial burden of restoration should be shouldered by the U.S. military.

Additionally, we want to make sure that key parties have the opportunity to participate in any decision-making related to land transfers. This means that BLNR and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (the Department) must consider input from lineal and cultural descendants of those areas, invested Native Hawaiian organizations—including OHA at minimum—and members of the surrounding communities. We urge this Board to take all actions necessary, today and into the future, that preserves Hawaiians’ and other communities’ involvement in decisionmaking in the return of our ‘āina from the U.S. military. Specifically, we want to ensure that the Department conducts all necessary Ka Pa‘akai analyses required. This is not just about doing what is pono but doing what is required by law.

State law mandates that “It shall be the duty and responsibility of all state departments and instrumentalities of state government providing services and programs which affect native Hawaiians and Hawaiians to actively work toward the goals of this chapter and to cooperate with and assist wherever possible the office of Hawaiian affairs.” H.R.S. §10-1(b). OHA stands ready to participate in discussions, plans and negotiations for the rightful return of our homelands from military control.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to help inform your decision on this important selection process.

**From:** [Anya Benavides](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:17:43 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Thank you,

Anya Benavides

Anya Benavides  
Master's of Science Student  
Kaiameaola Club Volunteer Relations Coordinator  
Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

I acknowledge that I live and work on Kānaka 'Ōiwi land. I acknowledge the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and dedicate myself and my work to honoring this land.

**From:** [Mini Karts](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:44:05 AM

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I, kristin bento, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Marissa Bergquist](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:37:26 AM

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I,marissa bergquist, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mealaaloha Bishop](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2.: Military Contract  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:15:12 AM

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Testimony Item D.2.:  
April 12, 2024  
7:15 am

Meala Bishop  
Ka‘alaea, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu

Oppose

You have failed again at winning the hearts and minds of the oppressed.

“Our land is not just a commodity to be bought and sold; it is the foundation of our identity and our way of life.”

Who does agenda item D.2. really benefit? I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands and other such deeds. Stop changing all what the people have put in place. A thorough lease renewal process.

These are woke times alright. We the people speak and it is up to the Board to relay our message, it is not about you telling us what is good for us. So here we are with the will to huli the system and put an end to land grabs military or otherwise. I say practice your “Hawaiian at heart” mask.

meala bishop

**From:** [Katie Bonvicino](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:45:36 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Vincent Brady](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:03:43 AM

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I, Vincent Brady , oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Breann Brewer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:44:04 AM

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I, Breann Brewer, oppose D2.

**From:** [Anna Brosgol](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawai'i's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:29:17 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR Meeting.

This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the US Military which threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian Lands and the well-being of our entire community and natural ecosystems.

It is time for the US Military to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War 2. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused during their occupation.

These 'Fair Market' Evaluations are inherently skewed, as the zones proposed for assessment are preservation lands and thus have very little market value, meaning that the US military would only be offering the bare minimum for purchase, not to mention there are 80 years worth of remaining ordinance from Bombings and Live Fire training which still contaminates the land to this present day.

**I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2** and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities through other means of stewardship through organizations like Malama Makua who have been spearheading the restoration efforts of the land for the last 20 years.

We must not succumb to the pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint and we can do that together with your help if you so choose to join us and reject this item.

It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations, for the longevity and sustainability of Hawai'i and all her inhabitants.

Thank you for your time,

Anna Brosgol  
Resident of Oahu

**From:** [Veronica Buonaiuto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I OPPOSE D2!  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:41:12 AM

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Stop getting rid of all our family fun on the island that is already infested with drugs!!!!!!  
We need this fun for our kids and family

Enough is enough!!!!  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Elyse Butler](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:25:46 AM

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I strongly oppose D2 and believe that the military should give Hawaiian land back into the hands of the Hawaiian people. This land is sacred and does not need to be used for military training purposes. Hawai'i should be treated with respect and love. The Hawaiian community deserves to get the land back that was so wrongly taken from them and mistreated for so many years.

Mahalo for supporting Hawai'i for generations to come.

Elyse Butler

--

Elyse Butler // [Photographer](#)  
+1.805.794.9643  
[elysebutler.com](#)  
[@oceanelyse](#)  
[hi@elysebutler.com](#)



**From:** [Courtney Campbell](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: D- 2: PROTECT HAWAII'S LAND AND COMMUNITIES  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:38:17 AM

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Aloha Kakahiaka,

I am writing to oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item that is to appraise lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our lands and the well-being of our communities. It is time for the US Army to honor its original agreement made at the end of WWII. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them to their original condition! It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused. I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. Mākua no longer needs to serve as the US Army's testing ground and years of population to that valley needs to be handled today! We can not allow these contaminates to continue to harm this islands already contaminated water issues. The urge to move to a sustainable present needs to be our priority on O'ahu and all of the Hawaiian Islands affected by these leases.

Mahalo,  
Courtney Campbell  
RESIDENT OF  
451 Nāhua Street Apt 801  
Honolulu, HI 96815

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**From:** [Cameron Chun](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:03:35 AM

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I, (Cameron Chun), oppose D2.

**From:** [Christian C](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Item D-2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:49:45 PM

---

Aloha,

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we would all fight to reduce their footprint. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo,

Christian Cravalho  
Resident of Ewa Beach

**From:** [Christina Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:29:37 AM

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ALOHA,

I AM WRITING TO VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE ITEM D-2 ON THE AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING BLNR MEETING. THIS ITEM, WHICH PERTAINS TO THE APPRAISAL OF LANDS LEASED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY, THREATENS THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PRECIOUS HAWAIIAN LANDS AND THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO HONOR ITS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT MADE AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. THEY HAVE HAD THE USE OF THESE LANDS FOR OVER 80 YEARS UNDER THE PROMISE OF RETURNING THEM IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONDITION. IT IS LONG OVERDUE FOR THEM TO FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY HAVE CAUSED.

I URGE THE BLNR TO REJECT ITEM D-2 AND INSTEAD PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF OUR LANDS AND COMMUNITIES. WE MUST NOT SUCCUMB TO PRESSURES TO EXPAND THE MILITARY FOOTPRINT IN OUR ISLANDS AND INSTEAD WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT TO REDUCE THEIR FOOTPRINT. IT IS TIME TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

MAHALO,

CHRISTINA SÁNCHEZ  
RESIDENT OF HONOLULU, HAWAII

**From:** [Tori Campbell](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:41:14 PM

---

I, Tori Campbell, oppose D2.

**From:** [Karen Sol](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2: I OPPOSE D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:22:23 AM

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Good morning,

I wanted to reach out to communicate my opposition of D2: the selling of Pohakuloa, Kahulu, Kawailio, and Mākua.

Mahalo,

Karen Cano

**From:** [Sydney Carlin](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:00:55 AM

---

I, (Name), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lace Furuike](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:03:33 AM

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I, Lace Cayetano, oppose D2.



**From:** [Saxony Charlot](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:59:28 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in strong opposition of military request to appraise state-leased militarized land in Hawai'i as outlined in agenda item D-2. Hawai'i already has an extensive history of ecological, cultural, and social damage caused by aggressive military presence, and this damage continues into today. Land stewardship under authority of the U.S. military has proven a failure in Hawai'i, and I would like to see less disaster in our future. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Thank you and aloha,  
Saxony Charlot, resident

**From:** [Marian Chau](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:38:04 PM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

The following is a template, but I fully agree with everything said below. It is critical for our 'āina, our native and endangered species, and future generations that this request in item D2 be denied. No more military occupation on Hawaiian lands.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Marian Chau

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In Ching v. Case (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care

about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in Ching v. Case in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

**From:** [malino ching](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:58:00 PM

---

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I appose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military land.

**From:** [Mattie Christianson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:48:27 AM

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I, Mattie Christianson, oppose D2.

**From:** [Ryan Chun](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:20:35 PM

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I, (Ryan Chun), oppose D2. Because the people need a place to ride if you take the track away everyone is just gonna be in the street illegally plus the military has enough land already

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aaron Clavecillas](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:19:06 AM

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I, Aaron Clavecillas oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jackson Coley](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:36:40 AM

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I am writing in opposition of all initiatives to give the military Hawaiian land. I oppose the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands.

I hope our legislature will oppose this effort by the US military and will work to remove them from their current training areas where they have caused environmental damage.

Mahalo

-Jackson Coley



**From:** [Liz Collins](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:16:40 PM

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My name is Elizabeth Collins, and I would like to submit testimony against giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for United States military proposed appraisal of lands in Hawai'i. The US military should not even be on Mauna kea... as an anthropology graduate of UH Mānoa, it saddens & infuriates me that to this day the native people of Hawai'i still are not being heard when they are speaking very clearly! "Mālama 'āina."

Already the US government has seized lands that are **not** necessary for retention... They've already polluted plenty of lands and waters that would have otherwise been for the people of Hawai'i to survive, for future generations. History has taught us that the American military does NOT clean up their mess although legally, they are reprimanded and told to do so... they never follow through. We have examples on Redhill right now and Kaho'olawe, which they've had decades to make right by now and have chosen not to do so.

The local population has spoken and asked that the US government stay off of the Mauna and they are not listening. They already have polluted the waters and lands from Pohakuloa training area with undisclosed materials, related to war and training. All of this is not necessary and puts lives at risk (human lives included) and all of the ecosystem is affected, whether or not they will admit to it. I'm pretty sure they don't even know the long-term effects of some of these poisons that they release into the environment. All we have to do is look at the history of what has happened in Micronesia with the "military exercises" that were conducted there and what it did to the people, their bodies, their babies (many born without organs). We do not want that to happen here! Period!

**Hunting** has been limited throughout the years; **cultural determination** includes the access to and freedom to hunt at will. DLNR, US military, & Parks Facilities) have all limited the access that Kanaka have to their lands. That is actually illegal & is infringing upon the Hawaiian peoples' right to **cultural determination** on their homelands. If people here cannot hunt, then you know are intentionally taking away their food source. Over the years the government has tried to limit access. That act alone is an attack on the local people, all be it in covert ways. Some people, hunt, fish, farm, and gather— they do not want to or cannot rely on imports for various reasons. Health, sustainability, cultural traditions, financial restrictions are some reasons that many local people may prefer to not rely on imported foods.

Already the U.S. have their military up on the sacred mountain doing exercises where we have no idea what kind of **poisons** (uranium being very likely, probably why the government prefers to keep that kind of information confidential) they are introducing & exposing the population downstream/downslope mountain into watersheds below, where we live, drink water, grow food; not to mention it ends up in the ocean, and will affect all fish and wildlife, as a whole! With rates of cancer high already we do not need more pollution introduced into our environments.

Overall, for reasons of cultural determination and environmental protection (humans included), the US military needs to stop trying to seize more land for their own frivolous use. The health of the land and its people is not worth risking for the military to play their war

games.

I write all of this with all due respect, as a mamma & a concerned citizen,

Signed,

Elizabeth

4/11/24

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kealani Cook](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:36:15 PM

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Aloha Kākou,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2 authorizing the chair to begin the process of appraising military lands. The state and the defense department have a responsibility for the proper maintenance and care of the lands they are currently using as well as a responsibility to return those lands to the people of Hawai‘i and/or the landowners whose lands were seized for defense purposes should the land be found to no longer have a military purpose.

Mahalo,

Kealani Cook

**From:** [Jen Cox](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:02:34 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please vote No on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

As a Maui resident and KIRC volunteer, I have seen the destruction caused by the military on Kaho‘olawe first-hand. The State has spent and will continue to spend millions of dollars trying to rectify decades of maltreatment there, not to say anything about the cultural harm suffered by the community because of it. Hawaiian lands deserve to be respected and cared for and the military has proven over and over again that it is not a good steward of the lands they are given access to.

Please do not make the same mistakes. Limit military access, increase their accountability to the People, and keep the restrictions in place that require both the State and the military to mālama ‘āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Jennifer Cox  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [C.C](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on item D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:49:36 PM

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I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities.

We must not succumb to the pressure to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint.

It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustAINAbility of present and future generations.

Mahalo,

Patricia Cravalho  
Resident of Ewa Beach

**From:** [Travis Dela Cruz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D. 2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:39:00 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D 2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military Lans. From nuuanu, with love. Aloha.

**From:** [Maria Cruz-Ochoa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:24:05 AM

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I, Maria Cruz, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Deidre Tumanuvao](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:05:59 AM

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Please vote NO on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands!

Warm aloha



**From:** [Jenn Dant](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 12, agneda items F.2 and F3 testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:10:25 AM

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My name is Jennifer Dant, I have lived on the Big Isand in Kona for 18 years.

I don't understand why we have to keep fighting these ridiculous battles. This is so clear. We are loosing our reefs and doing a horrible job taking care of this Island we love so much and it seems clear that you all could care less.

No fish collecting - its destroying our reefs

Sorry this testimony is late, most of us work consistency to live here, have children to take care of and gardens to tend, houses to keep maintained and then as well submit testimony to these ridiculous things that should be able to be left to you all to make the right decision once. I should have never been allowed.

--

Jenn Dant  
Fair Wind Cruises  
Boat department / Kitchen Operations Manager  
78-6775 Makenawai St Box A  
Kailua Kona, Hi 96740



E mālama ka ‘āina, E mālama ka ‘āina iā ‘oe

Take care of the land and the land will take care of you

**From:** [Bob & Dee Darst](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:34:42 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

dolores darst

**From:** [Liam Davenport](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:45:15 AM

---

I, (Liam Davenport), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Valentino De](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:22:14 PM

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I Valentino De Ocampo oppose D2.

**From:** [Astrid Delorme](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR to reject item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:45:21 AM

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To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR Meeting. This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the US Military which threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian Lands and the well-being of our entire community and natural ecosystems. It is time for the US Military to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War 2. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused during their occupation. These 'Fair Market' Evaluations are inherently skewed, as the zones proposed for assessment are preservation lands and thus have very little market value, meaning that the US military would only be offering the bare minimum for purchase, not to mention there are 80 years worth of remaining ordinance from Bombings and Live Fire training which still contaminates the land to this present day. I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities through other means of stewardship through organizations like Malama Makua who have been spearheading the restoration efforts of the land for the last 20 years. We must not succumb to the pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint and we can do that together with your help if you so choose to join us and reject this item. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations, for the longevity and sustainability of Hawai'i and all her inhabitants. It is also a breach of the free, prior, informed consent stated in the UNDRIP. Thank you for your time, Astrid Delorme, Resident of Oahu

**From:** [Rancestan DeRego-Cabarloc](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose D-2: Protect Hawai'i's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:36:02 AM

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I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and well-being of our communities.

It is time for the United States Army to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War II. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused.

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo.

**Rancestan DeRego-Cabarloc**  
Resident of Moanalua

**From:** [Howie Desireau](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hdesireau@shaw.ca](mailto:hdesireau@shaw.ca)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:18:19 AM

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I, Howie Desireau of Honolulu, Oahu and I oppose the DAR plan to open any plans they have to take fish for the Aquarium trade.

My reasons include:

- DARs briefing document:
  - **Fails to mention negative impacts of aquarium collection.**
  - **Fails to disclose the massive loss in yellow tang populations due to aquarium collectors.**
  - **Fails to disclose that the take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined.**
  - **Ignores cultural concerns, enforcement challenges or climate change.**

**On the DAR Request to Redraft the Rule (Item F.3):**

- **Please uphold the December 8 vote and begin the rule process to end the trade.**
- **The trade violates culture and native Hawaiian values .**
- **All 46 moku in Hawaii oppose aquarium collecting.**
- **Hawaii residents get ZERO benefit from aquarium extraction but suffer the costs.**
- **70% of Hawaii reefs may die by 2030 due to climate change.**
- **Scientists agree that more herbivores will make a key difference and that DAR herbivore rules for food fish are weak.**
- **Any legal collection provides cover for poaching.**

**Please do the right thing and stop DAR now!**

**Thank-you and much mahalo for your actions.**

**Howie Desireau.**

**From:** [Diamond Parks](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:11:09 AM

---

I oppose D2

Diamond Parks



**From:** [Paul Diaz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:52:13 AM

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I, Paul D, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alexandria Kloeppel](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:12:06 AM

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Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for the appraisal of military lands.

Sincerely,  
Alexandria Doggett

**From:** [King Dome](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:35:50 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted in order to purchase state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. Furthermore, I adamantly oppose the purchase of these lands by the US Army altogether. It is widely acknowledged within our community that the management of Pōhakuloa has been severely mishandled.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa encompass critically endangered plant habitats and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require the highest level of care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats at risk. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is just one example of the military's negligence that has endangered ecosystems in the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands also poses negative impacts on our human communities. Fires jeopardize the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. The loud noise from firing activity is disruptive to many. Additionally, the degradation of vegetation has led to a dustbowl scenario, where even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns about soil and water contamination from metals and chemicals used in military operations have not been adequately addressed. These lands also hold cultural significance, and continued desecration of this land is deeply distressing to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local residents who seek to see these environments treated with reverence.

In the case of *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State had failed in its duty to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure the Army's compliance with lease requirements related to debris cleanup. Pollution remains a persistent issue in this area, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to fulfill its obligation to verify that the Army is properly maintaining these lands as agreed upon. The consideration of selling these lands to the Army by the DLNR implies a lack of concern for our environment and the ongoing concerns raised by our community. By choosing to overlook the ruling in *Ching v. Case* and opting to sell leased lands, the State is setting a dangerous precedent and effectively condoning land mismanagement.

In conclusion, I urge the DLNR and all members to stand against the Army's request for land appraisal in order to purchase these lands from the State. The state leased lands must revert back to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Let this serve as notification you are breaking multiple laws on this proposed purchase so that you cannot say you were not aware of the specifics behind the purchase.

-Mahalo-

Cassandra Dalla Riva

**From:** [erin\\_dresser](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:24:46 AM

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I, Erin Dresser, oppose D2.

**From:** [KianaRose Dulan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:16:01 AM

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Aloha ‘āina kākou,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to agenda item D.2 and urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. Granting such authority would only serve to further erode accountability and transparency in the management of lands crucial to our communities and natural resources.

I am sure you have gotten enough testimony with the facts and logical reasoning to not sweep this under the rug.

I am here to ask you some questions. Why, after being presented with all of this ‘ike and mana‘o, that you still value national security over the land, its people, and its future generations? The U.S. military has no future in Hawai‘i. If you think it does, the people have decided that it does not, and the people here opposing the matter will not stop resisting.

Just reminding you :)

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
Kī

**From:** [Emmy Mendoza](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:55:05 AM

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I, Emmy Mendoza, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:33:28 AM

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Aloha,

No let da military take over da track.

I, Nigel Eharis, oppose D2.

Mahalo,

Nigel Eharis

**From:** [bill elaban](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:59:58 AM

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I, William Elaban, oppose D2. Kahuku motocross track has been an important part of life for many generations!!! I know what it meant to me growing up and it's what I hope to share w my grandchildren.

Aloha,  
Bill Elaban  
808-938-0595



**From:** [Pua O Eleili Pinto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition item D-2 Protect Hawaii's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:03:56 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to OPPOSE item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting in regards to the Appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army.

The US Army and all it's military branches have shown time and time generation after generation that they destroy and poison our natural life giving resources. Its appalling and dangerous to have them leasing lands for \$1 year and not clean up many of these spaces.

They made a promise to return these lands IN THEIR ORIGINAL condition. It is time for them to repair them and allow for the lands and community to rest from their war games. Hawai'i needs to restore these lands to allow everyone to heal.

Please BLNR, reject item D-2 and instead prioritize repairing these lands protecting the natural resources so our whole island can heal for generations to come. Let us significantly reduce the military presence in these islands.

Me ke aloha,  
Pua O Eleili from Kailua, O'ahu living in Manana.

**From:** [Elizabeth Ellsworth](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:47:39 AM

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I, Elizabeth Ellsworth, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [rose elovitz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:46:53 AM

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Hello, my name is Rose Elovitz,

I demand that you vote no on agenda item D.2 today. I oppose granting authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

The military must be held accountable for its rich history of desecrating Hawaiian lands. The repeated spills at Red Hill, which have contaminated Oahu's main aquifer PERMANENTLY, exemplify the numerous ways the US military has demonstrated its failure to steward aina.

To even consider negotiating a contract with the US military for land appraisal would demonstrate the BLNR's failure to protect land and natural resources.

Vote no on agenda item D.2 today.

Rose Elovitz

**From:** [GUY EUGENIO](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:07:53 AM

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I, Guy Eugenio , oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Makaya Fallon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:06:47 PM

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I, Makaya Fallon oppose D2.

I have only been riding for less than a year. As soon as I rode a dirt bike for the first time I felt in my heart like nothing else that this was me. It was instant love. Moto has shown me the island in a new way, there is no better way to experience the wild mountains of Oahu then from a dirt bike, the kahuku motor cross track provides a safe environment to learn how to trail ride with minimal risk of being caught in a tough situation, and that is something you can't put a price on. If the track is gone riders will be forced to ride illegal and dangerous areas to ride. Kahuku motor cross track is part of Oahu just as much as pipeline and crouching lion. Do not take this place from the Riders.

**From:** [Anthony Farr](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I oppose D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:42:36 AM

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I oppose the entering of negotiations to consider selling the lands of Pohakuloa, Makua, Kahuku, and kawaiiola. As the only sanctioned motorcycle rec park there will be nowhere to ride legally if the park is closed and kahuku land sold off.

As an avid user of kahuku motocross park I can testify to the positive impact that this park has on the family's of Oahu. Riding motorcycles is a great activity for family bonding. Generations of kids have learned how to ride and discovered the joy of motorcycles during their weekends at kahuku motocross park.

Kahuku's positive impact has kept many kids from taking the wrong path towards drugs and alcohol and has given them a place to enjoy the outdoors. Please consider the impact this decision would have on thousands of Oahu families.

**From:** [Tommy Faught](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:12:02 AM

---

I, Jerrod, oppose D2.

**From:** [Leilani Feleciano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:01:21 AM

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I, Leilani Feleciano, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Victoria Felt](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.Testimony](#); [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:48:39 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must

return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Happy Trails,

Victoria Felt

[Knots In The Pines](#)

Adventure Wedding Photographer and Planner

**From:** [kam f](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:23:15 PM

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I, Kameron Fely, oppose D2. You guys already got half of Kahuku. Leave the Tracks and surrounding areas alone. You guys been training the past 50 years with no problems, why do you need more now?

**From:** [Naima Fifita](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY, ITEM D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:25:40 AM

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To whom it may concern:

Please vote “no” on agenda item D.2. As environmental lawyer and founder of environmental nonprofit organization, The Moana Tasi Project, I vehemently oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. The lands at issue are not “for sale,” swap, condemnation or otherwise — nor should they ever be negotiated as such.

Mahalo,  
Naima

**From:** [Zoe Finn](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY ITEM D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:31:45 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please vote NO on agenda item D.2. I OPPOSE giving authority to the Chair to negotiate, approve, or execute a contract for an appraisal of lands leased to the United States military.

As a Native Hawaiian, I mālama ‘āina through personal practices as well as community volunteer work with local organizations such as Citizen Foresters of Hawai‘i and Papahana Kuaola. This is my kuleana as a Hawaiian.

As established in 2019 by the Hawai‘i State Supreme Court, the State of Hawai‘i also has an obligation to Hawaiians, and the people of Hawai‘i at large, to mālama ‘āina. Appraising the lands leased to the U.S. Army is incongruent with the States fiduciary obligations as stewards of our ‘āina. Appraising the lands leased to the U.S. Army to obtain the “market value” of our ‘āina strips Hawaiians of our right to hold the State and the U.S. Military accountable for their (potential) mismanagement of land and natural resources. We do NOT need the “market value” of lands that are NOT for sale, NOT for swap, and NOT for condemnation.

I humbly submit my testimony for your consideration.

Mahalo and mālama,  
Zoe Finn

Resident of Kaimukī, O‘ahu  
Phone # 808-346-1011

**From:** [Isaac Finnegan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:49:02 AM

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I, Isaac Finnegan, oppose D2. These lands should be kept for local use in the tradition that they have been used in the past. The military does not need more hawaiian lands.

Isaac Finnegan  
8089905225

**From:** [Andrea Fix](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:17:45 AM

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I, Andrea quitoriano fix oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Breanne Fong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:20:43 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Breanne Fong and I strongly urge you to vote NO on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

As the U.S. continues to occupy Native Hawaiian lands, this should not be up for debate. ‘Āina should be best taken care of by the people who have pilina (connection) to it, which means lineal descents, kama’āina, and those who have taken care of the space and continue to take care of the space.

‘Āina is not for sale!

Mahalo,  
Breanne Fong



**From:** [Janessa Fosi](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote "NO" on Item D.2.  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:28:21 PM

---

Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. Giving the Army these lands through a land swap or condemnation removes accountability from both the state of Hawai'i and the U.S. Army in their obligations to these lands. Red Hill and Kaho'olawe are both examples of the level of damage done when the military is accountable to no one. Since time immemorial, Kanaka Maoli have been the Indigenous stewards of these ancestral lands and Native Hawaiians know best how to malama their own 'aina. When we listen to Native people, the Earth heals. Please consider this testimony and consider the health and well-being of not only Native Hawaiians but all people who live on these sacred islands.

Mahalo,  
Janessa Fosi

**From:** [Dustin Frey](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:26:22 AM

---

I, Dustin Frey, oppose D2. This is the only place for families to recreate and ride dirtbikes on this island.

Dustin Frey

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [canf7777@gmail.com](mailto:canf7777@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:25:26 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Chelsea Furtado. I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island Oahu. I oppose this D2 bill. The military has destroyed these islands and continue to use it as their test spot and experiment. They took an entire island already. Our water is vital to this land. It is your responsibility to protect the rights that are protected for native people. It's time to step up to the plate and do what's right instead of what is fill somebody's pockets. The La hui will bring it to light. Our ancestors taught us resilience, we are here to see that our land and water is protected. The military has destroyed red hill and Makua valley. They continue to bomb areas that are very sensitive to vibrations. Test bombing things on the side of an active volcano, someone with common sense would say it's incredibly dangerous. I say common sense, because they don't care about our culture and what is sacred to Hawaiian people.

Not only does the presence of the military affect the land. The presence of the people who work in the military affect the land it's an ongoing disrespect of this land and people. If you don't protect the land FOR THE PEOPLE, we will expose the people who choose to protect the people who are detrimental to the land. As a Hawaiian, it's in our blood. Our ancestors were smart, and now we are equipped with the knowledge and resources to expose everybody. Don't underestimate the community, especially the Hawaiian community.

Mahalo for your time,  
Chelsea Furtado

**From:** [Ashley Galacgac](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:32:08 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety. Lands ought to be cared for, not be used for training grounds for warfare.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Ashley Ancheta Galacgac  
Pālolo, O'ahu

**From:** [Marcio Galvao](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:50:20 AM

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I, Marcio Galvao, oppose D2.

This is the place where i bring my kids/family every weekend, and i have life long plan to keep them out of the streets, bad influences and screens are everywhere, this is a place where we bring them for the nature and to ride our bikes.

Not fair that we have to give that up.

We have a lot of family friends with little and big kids who do the same.

**From:** [Ikaika Galves-Alameda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:53:01 PM

---

I, Ikaika Galves-Alameda, oppose D2.

**From:** [dale garaza](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:22:51 AM

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I, Trystan G oppose D2

**From:** [Leellen Garvida](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:22:23 AM

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I, Leellen Garvida oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Todd Gates](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:21:36 AM

---

I, Todd Gates, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [bryson51307@yahoo.com](mailto:bryson51307@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:50:29 AM

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I, (Bryson Gauthé), oppose D2.

Subject: Testimony in strong opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands, Agenda Item D-2

April 12, 2024

To the members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I strongly oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely, given that these leased lands were forcefully taken from the Hawaiian Kingdom during the illegal overthrow and annexation of Hawai'i. The military is not held accountable for any of their actions and the damage they cause to Hawai'i's lands and people, as we have seen with Red Hill, Mākuā Valley, Pōhakuloa, and more.

It is also well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged. The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is just one instance of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals such as depleted uranium, and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. The land of Pōhakuloa is sacred and the ongoing desecration of this 'āina, and obstruction of Kānaka Maoli access and customary rights is unacceptable.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), the State was found to have violated its public trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the BLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, about its obligation to uphold the public trust, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to disregard the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent for further mismanagement of military-occupied lands.

In closing, I implore the BLNR to oppose the Army's request to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029. There is no other option.

Sincerely,  
Sonja Giardina

**From:** [andrewgilbert25@gmail.com](mailto:andrewgilbert25@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:07:59 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Thank you,  
Andrew Gilbert  
Fort Myers, FL  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Janelle Gomez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:42:33 AM

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I, Janelle Gomez, oppose D2.

Kahuku is a special place. We have our Kahuku High school Red Raider Community. You were met with protesters for the windmills. We have high pricing for homes that local people who went to Kahuku want to buy homes and stay to make our community so great...we need that land for the people. DO NOT GIVE IT TO THE MILITARY. We have endangered bats and other birds that will be chased away with the military practice operations, flights, travels, practice shootings, etc. Leave Kahuku for the community and people. Military already took land from Native Hawaiians. When hula and Hawaiian language almost died, oahu turned to Kahuku area to learn because it was untouched of its traditions. It is because we are so isolated in our community to keep our culture pure. If you move the military by letting them by the land then that will contaminate the pureness of our culture. Do not give or sell this land to the military. This effects the community, the people, the pureness of Hawaiian culture, the endangered animals, and if you cared about the people, then you would oppose D2. Please do not let greed or money contaminate a healthy thriving Hawaiian community. Once something is contaminated it will no longer be pure for the future. Keep our culture pure. Kahuku has Hawaiian language and Polynesian communities supporting and thriving. Do not let the military destroy that. Please oppose D2.

**From:** [tylermgourley@gmail.com](mailto:tylermgourley@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:08:16 AM

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I Tyler , oppose D2. Because first it's one of the only legal riding area plus we've made so much memories with friends and random people riding at kahuku it's such a beautiful place

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [ryan gouveia](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:18:38 AM

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I, Ryan Gouveia , oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Kenani Gramberg](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:55:33 AM

---

Aloha,

I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Mahalo,  
Kenani Gramberg

**From:** [Andrew Grandinetti](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] land division proposal  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:47:59 AM

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I strongly object the the proposal to authorize the chair to negotiate, approve, and execute any contract for appraisal of the Hawaiian Trust Lands occupied by the military as part of the Pohakuloa Training Area. These lands should be returned to Hawaii, and to even suggest that this land has "market value" ignores the inherent cultural and environmental value of these lands, and an insult to our host culture.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grandinetti, PhD

**From:** [Max Gross](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on item D-2 4/12/2024  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:41:19 AM

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Aloha,

Please vote no on item D-2 as it relates to empowering the chair to move forward with the appraisal of these areas. The land is in no way owned by the current occupiers, and as such, it's "appraised value" should be of no concern to them. The appropriate course of action is to return these lands to native peoples and to fully fund their efforts to remediate the damage that has been done during their occupation.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Max Manalima Gross

**From:** [Zaxsalyn Guerro](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:43:54 AM

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Please vote no to item D.2. I suppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military.

**From:** [Ryder Guest](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:52:33 AM

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I, (Ryder guest), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Letumh8 OnDis](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:00:37 AM

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I, (Kekoa Guzman), oppose D2. Enough is enough. Leave some of the aina for its people not for the greedy or the military!

**From:** [Haylee Watson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2, Oppose  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:58:29 AM

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Aloha Kākou,

My name is Haylee Watson and I am submitting testimony in opposition of giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of Military lands. Please vote NO on agenda item D.2.

Mahalo,  
Haylee Watson

**From:** [Jacob Ha](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:57:21 AM

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I oppose D2.  
Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Erin Hagan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:17:40 PM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Erin Hagan, Waialua

**From:** [Pono Haitzuka](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:33:34 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Kupono Haitzuka and I live on Kauai. Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for the appraisal of military lands. As a conservation worker and native Hawaiian, I have unfortunately had to witness the military's detrimental impact on our home. Ever since setting foot on these shores, the United States military has proven time and time again that they are poor stewards of aina and do not value this place in the way that we do. They have caused irreparable damage across the pae aina, destroying aquifers, native species, and countless other resources which contribute to the health of our delicate ecosystems. In some cases, they have even hurt their own people and the local community (and attempted to cover it up). This does not align with the values that we hold here in Hawaii. To allow them to continue to have a presence in these lands would be a disservice to those who truly love this place. I humbly ask that when making this decision, you think of the people and above all, our aina.

Mahalo nui

**From:** [Veronica Buonaiuto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:37:37 AM

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Please do not sell!!!!!!

Please do not sell Kahuku motor cross track to the military. My family goes there every week and we need it .

Thank you ,  
Veronica Halemano

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Joseph Han](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written testimony on D-2 for April 12, 2024 BLNR Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:48:20 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Joseph Han, and I am incoming Assistant Professor in English at the University of Hawai'i.

I am writing today to testify on item D-2, which would "authorize the chairperson to negotiate, approve, and execute a contract for appraisal services." I am deeply opposed to D-2, and I strongly believe that the Chair should not have the authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands on O'ahu or anywhere in the Hawaiian archipelago.

I take issue with the process of appraising the land and determining a "fair market value" in the first place. As you already know, the U.S. army--and every branch of the military--has never paid "fair market value" for their use of Hawai'i's lands, with leases as long as 65 years for a single dollar. While that price of a single dollar is of course an issue, I fundamentally do not think that there is any price that we can accept for their continued use of these lands. The Red Hill water crisis has elucidated what so many people have already known for so long, which is that the lands and waters of O'ahu are priceless. By continually allowing the Navy to operate Red Hill despite numerous spills that predate November 2021, the state of Hawai'i played a large role in what many fear to be the irreversible contamination of the island's sole-source aquifer, for which there is no replacement. Just as the fresh drinking water of this island is priceless and demands our continual protection, so too are these lands. There are no systems of computation or value through which we can name a price that they are "worth."

With a proven history of mismanagement and lack of transparency, the U.S. military has not proven themselves to be good neighbors or good stewards of the land. The U.S. military has never fully kept their word in regards to historical promises they have made to clean up lands they have used. There are too many places in Hawai'i that suffer from the presence of unexploded ordnances, toxic contamination, and other harms that do not just violate land, but also us as the people who rely upon it. Based on this historical trajectory, we cannot afford to keep giving them chances to redeem themselves, especially considering that the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that the state of Hawai'i has an obligation to monitor, inspect and mālama the lands leased to the military. More specifically, in *Ching vs. Case* (2019), the judge Gary W. B. Chang ruled that the state must "promptly initiate and undertake affirmative activity to mālama 'āina the Subject Lands [Pōhakuloa]." This should not be limited to Pōhakuloa, but be considered of all military-leased lands throughout the islands, and the BLNR must honor and abide by this ruling.

In short, I am opposed to authorizing the Chairperson to have these responsibilities. When the U.S. military continually disrespects this land and the people who love it, we cannot keep granting them special privileges or use of these special places. No to appraisal, no to land swaps, no to condemnation, no to renewing their leases. We all have a kuleana to this place and that is to protect it from harm and to ensure its health for the well-being of future generations.

Mahalo,  
Joseph Han

Joseph Han | he/they | [@hanjoseph](#)  
Author, *Nuclear Family* (Counterpoint Press, [available now](#))  
Ph.D. in English & CW, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
West Editor, [Joyland Magazine](#)  
<http://joseph-han.com/>

**From:** [Kalai Hanohano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:17:36 AM

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Aloha kua,

My name is Kalai Hanohano. I am in opposition to D-2 agenda item. In my perspective, I am not sure why this is even being considered. The sole mission of this Department is to “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.”

There is no need for appraisal unless there is an inquiry of due diligence to understand the "fair market value", which was stated. For what purpose? To understand the damages in reparations? For the purpose of selling these parcels of land?

It is my conviction that DLNR is and has failed its duty and purpose. The opportunity to allow the land and its people to become "ea" is imperative. There are many alternatives to allowing military use of these lands which **completely** contradicts the mission of this department.

What is pono and hewa is very simple.

**From:** [Eric Hansen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawaii's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:54:44 AM

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Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition to to item D-2 on the agenda for today (4/12/24) BLNR meeting. The appraisal of lands leased by the U.S. military threatens the integrity of lands and the communities of Hawaii.

We must not let the military expand its footprint in Hawaii. Instead we need to reduce their footprint. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit for the present and future generations.

I implore the BLNR to reject item D-2!!!

Mahalo,  
Eric Hansen

Resident of Kapa'a , Kauai.

**From:** [Keahi Harper](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:02:43 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.





**From:** [Pua Heimuli](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:12:44 AM

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Aloha to the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Mahalo,  
Pua Heimuli

**From:** [cmth808@gmail.com](mailto:cmth808@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:28:55 PM

---

I, Carson Hernandez, oppose D2.

Mahalo, Carson Hernandez.

**From:** [Nathan Hester](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:14:41 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2 I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

The military needs to be held accountable as they have shown that they are irresponsible with the sacred land of Hawaii. They've endangered communities with their waste and can't be trusted to continue their actions, or we will experience another Red Hill (military stored jet fuel improperly, and it poisoned the community's water.).

Mahalo.  
Nathan Hester

**From:** [Dayne Hickey](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:52:46 AM

---

I OPPOSE D2

Dayne

**From:** [Mike Hikalea](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Agenda item D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:20:25 PM

---

My name is Michael Hikalea and I'm opposition to item D2. No sales,exchange or lease extension of any lands.

Mahalo,

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Caitlin Hodel](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:27:27 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

**From:** [Hilu Holthansen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:04:54 PM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety. Much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians

The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

I am strongly in opposition to the desecration and lack of accountability that the military takes to our precious resources, violating our human rights. I live on the Red Hill water line where I can say I was poisoned and I suffered from terrible headaches because our precious water was contaminated and the audacity and negligence of the navy to mislead the people in saying that we can drink the water is beyond comprehension. Please consider the people and our future.

Harrinette Holt-Hansen  
Ewa Beach



**From:** [Nikki Phillips](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:52:55 AM

---

I, Nicole Hookala, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tressa Hoppe](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY: Opposition to item D-2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:52:38 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities.

Not to mention that many of these sites up for appraisal are home to countless ecological and cultural treasures that have already been damaged by the military's presence. Take for example the bombing of Makua Valley leading to brushfires that damaged native forests with endangered and endemic plants and animals. Makua Valley is also home to many ancient petroglyphs and other cultural sites that Native Hawaiians should have access to, but are not allowed to see due to military presence and due to the bombing creating hazardous conditions with many unexploded ordnances (with civilian maintenance workers injured by explosives as recently as 2015).

I have worked in conservation for multiple years and am currently working on a PhD in botany with a strong emphasis on plant conservation and ecosystem restoration. In my professional opinion and experience, the military has done incalculable harm to our native flora and fauna- I have seen it both in my professional and personal life as someone who was born and raised on the Waianae coast. They have done harm in the form of outright habitat destruction (bombings, fires) as well as the spread of noxious invasive species that threaten our delicate ecosystems. The military is responsible for the spread of devil-weed in the Kahuku training areas and all throughout Schofield, the introduction of coconut rhinoceros beetles, and many more environmental disasters are inevitable in the future if we continue to allow them to operate without accountability or care.

It is time for the United States Army to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War 2. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused.

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead should work to reduce their footprint and demilitarize Hawaii. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo,

Tressa Hoppe, resident of Waianae, 96792

**From:** [Unique Hunter](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at P%5◆hakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:22:39 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at P%5◆hakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at P%5◆hakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the m%4◆lama %A%B%4◆ina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle K%5%B. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at P%5◆hakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Hunter, Kailua

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Patrick Ibarra](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:56:40 AM

---

I oppose D2!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



**Patrick Ibarra**  
Sales Consultant  
Servco Leeward

94-729 Farrington Hwy | Waipahu, HI 96797

📞 808-564-1023

✉ [patrick.ibarra@servco.com](mailto:patrick.ibarra@servco.com) [www.servcotoyota.com](http://www.servcotoyota.com) [www.servcochevy.com](http://www.servcochevy.com)



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**From:** [susan imai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2.  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:42:38 PM

---

Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Mahalo,

Susan H. Imai  
838 19th Avenue  
Honolulu 96816

**From:** [Kilihea Inaba](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:55:39 PM

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Aloha Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army and any such occupation of these lands by the U.S. military.

Pōhakuloa is the pike (center) of Hawai'i island. From that area flows in many directions, waters that feed the many beings that occupy spaces on Hawai'i island. For decades the military has not held up its end of the bargain resulting in the irreversible damage to the landscape and habitat of the area.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

We, the kānaka of Hawai'i island are telling you what is good for us; which is to not allow the extension past 2029 of the military's lease of Pōhakuloa lands and to not consider an appraisal for their purchase. I urge you to really listen to these concerns and do what is right for us.

Mahalo,  
Kilihea Inaba  
Kaloko, Kona, Hawai'i

**From:** [Marissa Ing](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose item d-2: protect hawaiiis land and community  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:24:15 AM

---

Aloha nui,

I am writing to oppose item D-2 on the upcoming agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the united states army and threatens our precious natural resources and well-being of our people.

Thank you for your time,

Marissa Ing

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ohana Cravalho](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:29:27 AM

---

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities.

We must not succumb to the pressure to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint.

It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustAINAbility of present and future generations.

Mahalo,

John Cravalho  
Resident of Ewa Beach



**From:** [John Le](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:30:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Aloha,

I John Le OPPOSE D2. My coworkers and I ride there every weekend as a pastime to get away from work and spend time with our kids teaching them to ride. This is are PASSION and Hobby. We respect the land we ride on and thankful to have a place where we can ride with our family and friends. All my best friends and the greatest People I have met are from riding.

Thank you,

**John Le**

*Service Manager*

Honolulu Ford

1370 N. King St  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
[jle@lithia.com](mailto:jle@lithia.com)  
808-532-1415 direct



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**From:** [Johanna Morgan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:13:34 AM

---

I, Kai Morgan, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rosie Jaffurs](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:26:28 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Aloha  
Rosie

**From:** [Puanani Jelf-Albert](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:11:45 AM

---

Please vote no on agenda item D.2, I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

**From:** [Darcy Johnson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:10:23 AM

---

I, Darcy Johnson, oppose D2. Hawaiians have had their land stolen or “purchased” from them for decades at the hands of wealthy companies and the US Government. I am pro Military, my husband is a Veteran, however, I believe that access to open spaces for Hawaiians is more important in this case than an expanded military training facility. The US Government has been taking land all over the US, in the name of military expansion, and protection, diminishing one of our greatest assets, our public land and access to that land for all Americans.

Please leave this land for Hawaiians and other Americans to enjoy.

Darcy Johnson

**From:** [luana.jones](mailto:luana.jones)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:17:06 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

ALOHA 'AINA!  
RETURN TOXIC BOMBED LANDS!!!  
ALOHA 'AINA!  
Love the Land! Nurture the Land!  
Heal the Land!!!  
ALOHA 'AINA!!!

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. There is already too much Depleted Uranium at Pohakuloa and unexploded ordinances that Violate the 'Aina!  
Please Stop the Madness!  
Return the Land to Aloha 'Aina!  
Aloha Aina, Aloha 'Aina!  
Back to Righteousness PLEASE!

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings! Please consider my testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Luana Jones  
PO Box 747  
Pahoa, HI  
[Luanajones777@hotmail.com](mailto:Luanajones777@hotmail.com)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [jtsnike@gmail.com](mailto:jtsnike@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:56:47 AM

---

I oppose D2.

**From:** [Kristina C](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:32:30 AM

---

I oppose D2!

Work in Kahuku and live in Hauula.



**From:** [Kehau Feleciano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Military land leases  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:09:19 AM

---

Aloha,

Please accept my written testimony that I strongly **oppose** the military getting an appraisal of the land to determine market value. This is one unnecessary as they are leasing the land and do not have any ownership of the land, two the intention of a possible land grab/swap is outrageous and wrong, and three they have not been good stewards of the land here in Hawaii. This has not only just affected our aina but our resources and the health of our people.

We must hold them accountable to be good stewards of the land during their lease and nothing more. No land swaps should be given or any process of any of kine should be initiated.

Mahalo,  
Kehaulani Feleciano

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kelia Moniz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:23:16 AM

---

Aloha,

I OPPOSE D2 !!! I am a 31 year old mom And Kahuku has been apart of my life since a little girl. This place hold heritage, a gathering place, and is my 3 year olds favorite place on earth.

To see this land being bough by the military would be absolutely heart breaking of so many local families who call this place their playground. This place is where the youth of Hawai'i are able to practice a sport In community and safety. It is where so many have trained, and made actual carers in riding.

I, along with thousands of local families would be absolute heart broken if this park would be at risk of getting taken away.

PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!!!

I would be happy to be a voice for our community if you need one.

Mahalo for listening,

- Kelia Moniz

**From:** [Dawn Oh](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:37:04 AM

---

Regarding item D.2:

Please vote no on the item D.2 on the agenda. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for appraisal of military lands. As a resident of the island of Hawai'i and part of a family that engages regularly as volunteers for planting and habitat restoration here along with others in our spare moments to heal even a small part of an ecosystem that is directly affected by these lands and their management we call on you to not discard your responsibility of care for this place for expediency.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kean Oh  
Waimea, Hawai'i Island

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kasey Barcelona](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawaii's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:53:23 AM

---

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose Item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting.

This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused.

I urge the BLNR to reject Item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint.

It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo,

Kasey Rabes  
Resident of Kailua, O'ahu.

April 11, 2024

Aloha Board Members,

On behalf of Ka'ahahui Hawai'i Aloha 'Āina, we are writing to express our Strong Opposition to agenda item D.2. We strongly urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. Granting such authority would initiate a process that erodes accountability and transparency in the management of lands that are crucial to our communities and natural resources.

It is our position that these lands are seized Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands and are not for the State of Hawai'i to lease or otherwise transfer to the US military at all. But we also recognize the vast diversity of people in Hawai'i who have fought to enshrine public and environmental protections over state lands, with the intention of ensuring the integrity for generations to come.

The proposal to determine the "market value" of militarized lands in Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho stands to compromise these protections by initiating a process that could lead to direct control of these lands by the US military, who has a terrible track record in Hawai'i. Time and time again, we have witnessed the detrimental impacts of military activities on our health, lands, water, and cultural sites.

What is most concerning, however, is the possibility that the Board is willing to help the military bypass the lease renewal process – a process that ensures the people of Hawai'i have a role in determining the future of our lands. There is little room to interpret the initiation of an appraisal process other than an attempt to absolve the state's obligation to these lands and to clear the path for the Army to enjoy indefinite control and far less accountability.

In closing, we point to the Hawai'i State Supreme Court determination that the State of Hawai'i has an obligation to uphold the principle of "mālama 'āina" and ensure the protection and stewardship of the lands entrusted to its care, including those leased to the military. We urge the Board to take this kuleana seriously and vote no on agenda item D.2.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,  
Ka 'Ahahui Hawai'i Aloha 'Āina (Hui Aloha 'Āina)

O'ahu

Kara Kelai  
President, Hui Aloha 'Āina Ka Lei 'Āina Ali'i

K. Kamakaoka'ilima Long  
President. Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu

Maui

Ke'eaumoku Kapu  
President, Hui Aloha 'Āina Ka Malu Ulu o Lele

Hawai'i

Sarah Niau Wakana  
President. Hui Aloha 'Āina o Hilo

**From:** [Darlani Kaai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:11:29 PM

---

I, (Darlani Kaai), oppose D2.

Military is taking over everything this needs to stop already enough is enough. No Can

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kenzie Kahale-Alexander](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:37:30 AM

---

Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are claimed as being "vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa". However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexploded ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare as many military exercises are clearly visible from the highway and reports of UXO being as close as 15 feet away from the highway are documented in the legal case "Ching vs. Case".

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max Kahalelio and Uncle Kū Ching. It is evident that the military has consistently failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability. This concern is preceded by the current condition of Kaho'olawe and the military's historic abuse and neglect of the lands and waters of Hawai'i. Should the BLNR proceed with this option, the local and native communities will become responsible for cleaning up after the military.

In conclusion, I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa Training Area. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment and conservation lands by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Mahalo for considering my testimony on this vital matter.

Kenzie Kahale-Alexander, Honolulu

**From:** [Richard Kahalewai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:50:27 PM

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I, (Richard Kahalewai), oppose D2. When will it be enough? Seems we're being forced to live in boxes that's taxed ,and if we come out. We need to be doing something thats taxable like Working and shopping. We are filled with Anxieties cause no mo nuff . We get prescribe drugs and it's insanity! We get it, outta thin air you can afford and we pay it with taxes. But please, when will it be enough? Spare us some land. Land to enjoy our lives on. Not afraid to stand on. #brapbrap

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)



**From:** [Pearl Kaiama](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12, Agenda item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:51:38 AM

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To whom may concern at the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I ask the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's request to appraise state leased lands. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. The army and the State of Hawaii through its mismanaged leasing practices consistently put our native water systems, ecosystems and habitats in danger. Consequently, putting the people of Hawaii in danger as well. These leases need to be up when they expire in 2029. Do not be a part of the continued degradation of our aina. Be a part of the solution and take accountability as it is the state's responsibility to block the sale and continued mistreatment of these lands.

In closing, I am strongly opposed to the Army's request for appraisals and I am furthermore opposed to the sale and purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely.

Sincerely,  
Pearl L. Kaiama  
[pearl.kaiama@gmail.com](mailto:pearl.kaiama@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kailani R.A](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:35:19 AM

---

I OPPOSE D2.

As someone who has lived on this land for 17 years and was raised here all my life, it's disheartening to witness events like this unfolding in our beloved Hawaii. Our island is imbued with beauty and rich history, and the intrusion of more military presence threatens to diminish its significance. Generations of ancestors have labored diligently to preserve and pass down our cultural heritage, and it pains me to see their efforts potentially undermined by further encroachment.

**From:** [Kalahiki, Kaliko](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:51:38 AM

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Aloha nō,

I am a resident of Kailua and a proud Kanaka. In order to truly mālama 'āina and in good conscience listen to Hawaiian voices, please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

These lands are to be held in trust for the betterment of the Hawaiian people. With Red Hill and Kaho'olawe, we as the Hawaiian people have seen the atrocities that can occur on our 'āina if the military isn't held accountable to its actions. Negotiating a contract for appraisal is NOT in the best interest for Hawaiians.

Mahalo,  
Kalikoonāmaukūpuna Kalāhiki

Brown logo



**Kalikoonāmaukūpuna (Kaliko) Kalāhiki (they/them), '24**

Critical Native American and Indigenous Studies, A.B.

Tel: (702) 467-9949 | Email: [kaliko@brown.edu](mailto:kaliko@brown.edu)

Box #5141

**From:** [Chase Keliipaakaua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:59:58 AM

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Aloha,

These days, one would assume that it should go without saying that a vote opposing item D.2 should pass overwhelmingly. However, we've seen time and again that what the people want - or rather, the people who were born from these lands - is never the first thing that is taken into account. In fact, what we want is grossly neglected.

I vehemently oppose granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for the appraisal of Pohakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho. The American military has had enough time operating on our lands.

My recommendation is that they clean up their trash (themselves included) and prepare to move out.

Mahalo,  
Chase Keliipaakaua

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Chelsea Kamai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:25:22 PM

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I, Chelsea Kamai, oppose D2. Motocross is a way for kids to have a healthy activity to participate in. Taking this away from the families and individuals who have used and cared for these facilities throughout generations would be a steep loss for the community as well as remove access to a place where future generations can experience this activity in a safe, monitored environment.

Mahalo,

Chelsea Kamai

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**From:** [john kamakana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:10:23 AM

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I oppose D2. No just no. Its wrong, its a land grab so no.

**From:** [kimeona.kane](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Councilmember Esther Kia'āina](#); [CAPITOL2023-repmarten](#); [CAPITOL2023-senlee](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to Agenda item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:16:58 AM

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Aloha nui kākou,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo, a community negatively impacted by the Department of Defense and its methods via Bellows Airforce Base, Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, and the Hawai'i Army National Guard.

My community has carried a heavy burden, without consent or consultation, this military installation was thrust upon our families, since for nearly 100 years. This militarization of a rural, farming and fishing community of predominantly Native Hawaiians, have left long lasting and irreversible trauma and hardship on our people, in the name of "peace" through warfare. We have agonized over the disregard, desecration and extractive behaviors, which do not align to how Hawai'i lives. We are done with them.

Our story, however, is not unique or a one off, many communities and generations of Hawai'i people have been born into and have died by this reality.

With that, I am submitting my STRONG OPPOSITION to item D-2, and DO NOT SUPPORT the actions of the United States Army Training Land Retention Efforts for the Pōhakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawai'i and for Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Training Lands on the Island of O'ahu;

And

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the authorizing of the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to Determine the Fair Market Value Currently Leased by the United States Army, Tax Map Keys (1) 5-8-002:002, 5-9-006:026; 7-2-001:006; 8-1-001:007 (por.), 008 and 012 (por.), 8-2-001:001, 022, 024, & 025; and (3) 4-4-015:008, 4-4-016:005. 7-1-004:007.

The Department of Defense needs to remove themselves and return the 'āina back to Hawai'i and its beneficiaries, cleaned and safer than how they took it.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE AGENDA ITEM D-2.

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a a me ka mahalo,

Kimeona Kane (he/him)

808 398 8989

[kimeonakane@gmail.com](mailto:kimeonakane@gmail.com)

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**From:** [Kealoha Kaneakua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:11:25 AM

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## WE MUST PROTECT HAWAI'I'S LAND AND COMMUNITIES

I AM WRITING TO VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE ITEM D-2 ON THE AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING BLR MEETING. THIS ITEM, WHICH PERTAINS TO THE APPRAISAL OF LANDS LEASED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY, THREATENS THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PRECIOUS HAWAIIAN LANDS AND THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO HONOR ITS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT MADE AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. THEY HAVE HAD THE USE OF THESE LANDS FOR OVER 80 YEARS UNDER THE PROMISE OF RETURNING THEM IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONDITION. IT IS LONG OVERDUE FOR THEM TO FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY HAVE CAUSED. I URGE BLNR TO PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF OUR LANDS AND COMMUNITIES AND TO REJECT ITEM D-2.

WE MUST NOT SUCCUMB TO PRESSURES TO EXPAND THE MILITARY FOOTPRINT IN OUR ISLANDS AND INSTEAD WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT TO REDUCE THEIR FOOTPRINT. IT IS TIME TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF HAWAI'I.

MAHALO,

Kealoha Kaneakua  
Resident of Wai'anae, O'ahu

**From:** [Alex Kanuha](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:35:05 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. This would have a devastating impact on our water sources and native species that exist within those leased lands of the military by allowing them to further continue the destructive actions performed by the USA Military further displacing the native wildlife and further poisoning our lands.

**From:** [kapenalibokmeto@yahoo.com](mailto:kapenalibokmeto@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:26:30 AM

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I, Kapena, oppose D2.

**From:** [Teisha Lee Kealoha-Kekahuna](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:06:46 AM

---

I, Teisha Kealoha, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Des KK](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony of Destinee Keawemauhili  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:00:00 AM

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Aloha and Good morning-

My name is Destinee Keawemauhili. I live and love on the land that my ohana and my ancestors have been a steward of all these years. I hope to pass the baton to my children, their children, and theirs beyond that.

In order to do that, I must stand against nefarious practices against this aina we all call home. That is exactly what is going on behind closed doors regarding the future of the lands leased by the USArmy for military training.

I firmly oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item, concerning the appraisal of the lands leased by the USArmy is the beginning of the intentional destruction of the beautiful, precious land that we have been entrusted with to care for, so that in turn it can take care of us.

It is time for the USArmy to honor the original agreement made at the end of WWII. A promise was made to return the lands in its original state, however it's been 80 years of desecration and destruction. Our land and people need time to heal.

I strongly urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities!

Mahalo,  
Destinee Keawemauhili  
(808-341-3991)  
[Unmei11@gmail.com](mailto:Unmei11@gmail.com)  
PO BOX 6256  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Devin Kee](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:02:59 AM

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I, Devin Kee, oppose D2.

**From:** [Aaron Keitzer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:51:57 AM

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I, Aaron Keitzer, oppose D2. It would be a true tragedy if the community loses this Gem.

**From:** [Kekoa Kekawa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:02:34 AM

---

I, (Christian-Joseph kekawa), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Namele Kekuewa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item D2 Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:40:36 PM

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To the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of item D2 that authorizes Chairperson, Dawn Chang to negotiate, approve and execute contracts to lease the land of the Hawaiian people, Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Makua, to the US Army. The current use of the land mentioned above have been a spit in the face to the Hawaiian people.

The DLNR mission statement states, "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors". Under the direction of Chairperson Dawn Chang, DLNR has lost much of its integrity by allowing the US Military to continue to destroy our so called, "unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources", as it is said in the DLNR mission statement. Dawn Chang has time and time again displayed willful disregard and desecration of Hawaiian land and iwi kupuna during her career. She has proven that she lacks respect for the land of Hawai'i by undermining numerous peers and Hawaiian voices to pursue her own independent agenda. By the careless hands of the US military, our lands and waters are being polluted and ecosystems are being destroyed – all of which enabled by the DLNR and authorized by chairperson Dawn Chang.

These are first Hawaiian land and always will be. Every parcel of Hawaiian land contributes to the overall well-being of Hawai'i. How can Hawai'i continue to be Hawai'i if our land, waters and unique wild life are destroyed? Authorizing Dawn Chang to continue making corrupt negotiations with entities that actively destroy Hawai'i, would be a direct act of hypocrisy and deception by the DLNR. I urge the BLNR to re-focus on the DLNR mission statement and fulfill your kuleana by making your decisions with the integrity of Hawai'i at the forefront.

Mahalo,  
Namelelani Punahoa Kekuewa

**From:** [Antoine Khalil](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:37:13 AM

---

I, Antoine Mino'aka Khalil oppose D2.

**From:** [Nikhil Khurana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:41:29 PM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety. The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare. A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs. Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama ‘āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability. In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Nikhil

**From:** [Kiki K](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D-2 Testimony DO NOT PASS PLEASE  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:52:30 PM

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As a kānaka of this ‘aina, please do NOT pass this item. Enough Hawaiian lands have been taken from our people. Our culture, race, and people have become endangered. Enough native plants and animals have become extinct due to the lack of respect that is shown to our ‘aina and our kūpuna who have come before us. Please do what is pono and keep what little land that we have left in Hawaii for the actual people of Hawaii. Mahalo for your time.  
- Kiana A.

**From:** [Sharon Kim](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:07:28 PM

---

Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I strongly oppose giving the Chair authority to negotiate a contract to appraise military lands. This is the first step in permanently transferring our lands to the military. Instead, the State should initiate the return of these lands. The military must fulfill a promise made at the end of World War II to return the land to its original state, yet it seems that things are heading in another direction. Could the leaders in this State please start looking out for the interests of the people who have lived here for generations? Hold the military accountable to their agreement and vote no on item D.2

Mahalo,  
Sharon KIm  
Resident of Makakilo, Oahu

**From:** [Kimukai Hideki](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:55:34 PM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

The congress has also expressed its commitments to acknowledge the ramifications of the illegality of the US military presence and expressed the commitments to provide and support reconciliation efforts between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people.

Hideki Kimukai

[Outlook for iOS](#) を入手

**From:** [Elysa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:50:41 PM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2!!

I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Elysa N. Kinoshita  
木下エリッサ典子

**From:** [Drew](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2 opposition  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:15:53 AM

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I, Drew Kirby, oppose D2. It would be horrible to close the only riding area left on the

Thanks,  
Drew Kirby  
865-603-2662



**From:** [Nation Klok](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:29:24 AM

---

I, (Nation Klok), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Olivia Knox](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:16:02 AM

---

Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

The devastation caused by the US military is not reversible, and it does not happen in a bubble. The problems caused at Red Hill etc will only snowball and continue to desecrate these sacred lands.

Additionally, Hawaiian Homelands are being used by the US military, when most Hawaiians are not able to live in Hawai'i. This is unacceptable. Please take a stand to protect Kanaka today.

Sincerely,

Olivia Knox

**From:** [Kahalaomāpuana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:24:33 AM

---

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

These lands are not for sale, for swap or should not be condemned. Hewa!

Mālama ‘Āina is our only Kuleana.

Shawn Kobashigawa  
Ka‘alaea, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu.

**From:** [Tatsuki kohatsu](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written testimony on D-2 for April 12, 2024 BLNR Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:11:32 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Tatsuki Kohatsu. I am a PhD candidate at UH Mānoa. I am writing today to testify on item D-2. I am strongly opposed to D-2, and I believe that the Chair should not have the authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands on O‘ahu or anywhere in Hawaii.

The U.S. military has proven that their priority is not to be good neighbors or good stewards of the land. The U.S. military has never fully kept their word in regards to historical promises they have made to clean up lands they have used. For instance, in 2022 the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands pointed out the negative environmental impacts of the military training at Pōhakuloa. Not only did they raise how damaging the impacts of the military training and installations were, but also how there was insufficiency in the report by the military. It illuminates the fact that the purported promises of the military to maintain their responsibilities need scrutiny. The Hawai‘i Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that the state of Hawai‘i has an obligation to monitor, inspect and mālama the lands leased to the military. More specifically, in Ching vs. Case (2019), the judge Gary W. B. Chang ruled that the state must "promptly initiate and undertake affirmative activity to mālama ‘āina the Subject Lands [Pōhakuloa]." This should not be limited to Pōhakuloa, but be considered of all military-leased lands throughout the islands, and the BLNR must honor and abide by this ruling.

I am opposed to authorizing the Chairperson to have these responsibilities. No to appraisal, no to land swaps, no to condemnation, no to renewing their leases. We all have a kuleana to this place and that is to protect it from harm and to ensure its health for the well-being of future generations.

Mahalo for your time,  
Tatsuki Kohatsu

**From:** [William](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:40:47 AM

---

Aloha

I ride at the Kahuku motocross track.

I am opposed to the D2 bill.

The track is a fun place to spend my weekends.

Please don't close it down.

Thank you  
William Kop

**From:** [JASON KORNEGAY](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:31:18 AM

---

I, (Jason KORNEGAY ), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Brittany Krupski](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:45:10 AM

---

I, Brittany Krupski, vehemently oppose D2, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the US army and threatens the integrity of the Hawaiian Islands. These lands belong to the Hawaiian people and should be returned, honoring the agreement made after WWII.

I urge the BLNR to reject D2. Thank you for your attention.

With gratitude,  
Brittany Krupski

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Nicholas Kwon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Item D-2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:51:08 PM

---

Aloha,

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we would all fight to reduce their footprint. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo,  
Nicholas Kwon  
Resident of Aiea



**From:** [Matthew Kyle](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:38:49 AM

---

I OPPOSE D-2

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lusana H](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR - Re: D-2 Opposed.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:56:37 AM

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Aloha,

To whom it may concern at the BLNR;

My name is Lusana Hernandez. I have lived on O'ahu for nearly 40 years. Although I am not a Kanaka Maoli, I am a Hawaiian at heart. And I am for peace & sustainability.

Please vote NO on agenda item D-2. I am against giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

While I understand the need for training of the Armed Forces, the damage that has been done over the years to the 'Āina, the sacred Hawaiian land & water, is unconscionable. It not only affects us, it affects our children, our children's children, on down through future generations.

I am horrified to hear you are discussing the possibility of selling the land to the US Army! How much more damage is the State of Hawai'i willing to agree to? Wasn't poisoning our water at Red Hill enough? What about the damage at Kaho'olawe?

Hawai'i needs to become a leader in respect, sustainability, & health & healing. We need to learn from & implement Native Hawaiian cultural practices. The Ahupua'a system worked.

This sacred land should be returned to the Native Hawaiians, to allow them to care for their land; live on it, grow food, & create 'Āina based Hawaiian healing programs that serve the Native Hawaiians & locals here. From that foundation Hawai'i can become the model for worldwide healing, regeneration of the land & sustainability that embodies the true spirit of Aloha, honoring the Native Hawaiian cultural values & all of life.

Mahalo.

Lusana Hernandez

**From:** [Lisa Tran](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:52:12 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Thank you,

--

Lisa T.

**From:** [Sterling Laa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:49:24 PM

---

I, sterling laa, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Glenn](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 F3  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:49:24 AM

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Good day,

To who it may concern, I oppose banning the aquarium fishery! I also support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. It is a renewable resource and provides vital income to local fishers!

Glenn Laborda  
New Jersey  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Flo Lagpagan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:48:39 AM

---

I, Florencio Lagpagan, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [CBKL](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:50:27 AM

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Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged. As a Kānaka 'Ōiwi, it is my kuleana to speak out in defense of Hawai'i and join the other aloha 'āina to protect our home. I urge you to vote no on agenda item D-2.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically-endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require the utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state-leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state-leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state-leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state-leased lands must return to the Hawai'i once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Mahalo,

Kikilia Lani





**From:** [Nawahine Lanzilotti](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose item D-2 | Protect Hawai'i's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:35:47 AM

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To whom it may concern—

I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities.

International health and policy research over the last 40 years has established the importance of sustainable development for our human security, underlining the notion that national and international security must transcend the traditional reliance on military power and focus on the health and well-being of our lands and communities.

According to a report from the International Peace Bureau of Geneva, the US military is the largest single source of environmental pollution in the US. We have seen repeatedly and consistently (particularly in the Pacific) the community displacement that occurs as a result of inevitable contamination from military land use. In Hawai'i, military contamination has prevented the return of lands intended to be developed for affordable housing, further aggravating the housing crisis for our local community.

The United States Army has had use of Hawai'i lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment, honor the original agreement made at the end of World War II, and remedy the damage they have caused.

States are entitled to take legitimate measures to ensure the security of their citizens, but what is "legitimate" cannot be a unilateral decision. All who are affected should have a role to play in these judgements, through appropriate channels in the political process.

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and security of our communities' health and sustainability. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo and thank you for your time--  
Nawahine Lanzilotti  
Resident of Mānoa, O'ahu

--

Nawahine Lanzilotti

[how to pronounce Nawahine](#)

**From:** [Maile Lavea-Malloe](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, OPPOSING Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:36:21 AM

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Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I trust this email finds you in good health. I am reaching out to strongly request that you reject the proposal to authorize the BLNR chair to negotiate a contract for the appraisal of expiring leased Hawaiian lands to the United States military.

It is understood that these tactics aim to bypass the application process to renew land leases, in an attempt to remove accountability from the State of Hawaii and the U.S. military.

As a concerned resident and advocate for the preservation of our natural resources, I firmly believe that any decisions regarding the use and management of our land must prioritize the well-being of our environment and communities.

Granting unilateral negotiating authority to the chair will undermine transparency and public participation in this crucial decision-making process. It is essential that the interests of the public and the protection of our natural resources are fully considered and respected.

The history of the US military's occupation and land leases in Hawaii has been characterized by a disturbing pattern of irreparable harm inflicted upon our delicate ecosystem. Over the years, military activities have left a legacy of environmental degradation that continues to haunt our islands. Kahoolawe and Red Hill. Despite efforts to mitigate the damage through proposed "cleanup" operations, little has been done and the scars of the military's presence persist, irreversibly damaging the land and waters of Hawai'i.

Countless instances of toxic and cancerous contamination, stemming from military operations, have left lasting impacts on both terrestrial and marine environments. Life-altering hazardous substances, such as heavy metals, petroleum products, and other severe pollutants, have seeped into the soil and groundwater, posing ongoing threats to human health and the integrity of our fragile islands ecosystems. Despite proclaimed attempts at remediation, these toxins persist, defying complete eradication and perpetuating environmental disasters.

Additionally, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) remains a pressing concern across military sites, posing substantial risks to public safety and impeding efforts at land rehabilitation. The sheer scale and complexity of the problem have rendered complete eradication an elusive goal, leaving behind pockets of danger that continue to endanger both humans and wildlife.

Furthermore, the impact of military activities extends beyond mere physical contamination, encompassing the desecration of culturally significant sites, the destruction of native flora and fauna, and the disruption of delicate ecological balances. The loss of these irreplaceable elements not only diminishes the cultural and ecological richness of our islands but also deprives our future generations of the opportunity to connect with and learn from our natural heritage.

In light of these sobering realities, it is evident that the wounds inflicted by the U.S. military's

presence in Hawai'i run deep and persistently defy attempts at full recovery. As such, any decision regarding the appraisal and management of military lands must be adamantly opposed with the utmost caution and consideration for the long-term well-being of our environment, communities, and cultural heritage. It is imperative that any negotiations regarding these lands are conducted with the utmost care, accountability, and scrutiny.

Understand the long-term consequences of granting negotiating authority to the BLNR chair, oppose this decision, and prioritize the interests of the people of Hawai'i and the protection of our lands and natural resources.

Mahalo,

**Maile Lavea-Malloe**

**From:** [jilavelle32987](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:59:29 PM

---

I, John lavelle , oppose D2.

If you close kahuku motocross track we will have no place to ride we are slowly losing our extra caricula activities in hawaii... please don't pass this bill

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

**From:** [Andrew Le](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:24:45 AM

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I, Andrew, oppose D2.

**From:** [timothy lee](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item f2 and f3  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:02:03 AM

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I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. I believe that by allowing the fishermen to sustainably collect the fish of the area, allows those of us whose goal is to preserve ocean life and hopefully have them bred to be released, we can ensure the survival of the species that are facing global warming threats. The collection of specimens SHOULD be limited to a max amount per year per fisherman, but not banned entirely. This allows for sustainability for the populations of local species and provides lively hood for the fishermen who may not know how to do anything other than that.

Signed,  
Timothy Lee

**From:** [Tyler Leong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:07:37 AM

---

I, (Tyler leong), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Emily Leucht](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:39:17 AM

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Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

In 2019 the Hawai'i State Supreme Court ruled that the State of Hawai'i has the obligation to inspect and monitor the well being of lands leased to the military. By providing an avenue to swap lands or sell the lands of Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho, all of which have conservation designation, to the current military lease holders, the State relinquishes this obligation. We have seen the devastating and lasting impacts of unchecked military land management on Kahoolawe and at Red Hill. Please vote no on item D.2 to insure we do not see this kind of gross mismanagement happen to our 'āina again.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.



**From:** [Celina Li](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:57:36 AM

---

I, Celina Li, oppose D2. Please give Hawaiian lands back to Hawaiian hands.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Cynthia Liang](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:39:51 AM

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I, Cynthia Liang, oppose D2.

**From:** [Fred Lino](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:25:26 AM

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My name is Fred Lino. I am a native Hawaiian and also a Soldier in the Hawaii Army National Guard. I oppose this bill because we do not have the luxury of selling more land to the military. The Hawaiian people have given so much to the military and there needs to be a line. Do not sell more of our peoples land.

V/R,

Fred Lino  
(808)554-5789

**From:** [Tiffany Liu](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Agenda Item D-2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:39:14 PM

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Hello,

My name is Tiffany and I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Hawai‘i. I live in Makiki and am represented in the House by Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, and Sen. Carol Fukunaga in the Senate. I urge the board to reject the proposal to appraise and exchange ceded land at market value for the U.S. army.

The U.S. military at large is under 2019 Hawai‘i Supreme Court ruling to "mālama ‘āina," yet we repeatedly see their inability to do so across time and space---from the Red Hill water crisis in 2014-present, to the ongoing need to restore Kaho‘olawe when it was returned to the State, to the U.S. military creation of the Runit Dome housing (and leaking) radioactive fallout from U.S. nuclear testing of the Marshall Islands in the late 90s, of which the U.S. military sheds accountability of. We also know that the U.S. army does not primarily see itself as responsible for taking care of the health of the land because of "national security." For instance, Lieutenant colonel Kevin Cronin, commander of the Pōhakuloa Training Area, is recorded [in an interview](#) with Al Jazeera saying that decades of bombs dropped on Pōhakuloa are not cleaned up for "safety reasons."

Please vote no on agenda item D-2. The health of the people is directly related to the health of the land. And we cannot view ‘āina as parcels of land. Land is an ecosystem of interdependent relations wherein continued disruption to one area has a ripple effect to the entire ecosystem.

We are living in the Anthropocene in which humans have become the major ecological force manipulating ecosystems, and that is due to human-made systems and human-made choices, big and small. This can be a great turning point in history, for good or for bad. If we are to have any chance at a planetary future in Hawai‘i and beyond, please vote no.

Sincerely,  
Tiffany Beam

**From:** [Evotia Lolotai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:14:14 AM

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I OPPOSE D2! As a long time resident of Kahuku, I strongly oppose further selling/leasing of any Oahu lands, including my town of residence, to the US military or any foreign investors. Let any current lease expire.

I am outraged by our current elected officials for not taking a stronger stance on this matter. WE NEED HOMES!!!

Evotia Lolotai  
Kahuku, HI

**From:** [Lucas Lozano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:41:24 AM

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I, Lucas Lozano, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jess Kēhau Lucas](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY ITEM D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:58:27 AM

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Aloha

Please vote NO on agenda item D.2

I oppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

This does not work the betterment of ka lāhui Hawai‘i and thereforw, should not be approved nor considered.

No ka pono o ka lāhui,  
Aloha ‘Āina



**From:** [Kain Lyman](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:09:32 AM

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I, (Kain ), oppose D2.



**From:** [Micah Ancheta](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:09:56 AM

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I, (Micah Ancheta), oppose D2. Please let us keep our only motocross facility here in Hawaii. We already lack a motor sports infrastructure and for the bikers this is all we have for a track. It's been around before I was born, and has been a part of my family and my entire life.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michol Miller](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2 - Please vote NO!  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:57:27 AM

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Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to agenda item D.2 and urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. This would be a grave mistake. Granting such authority would only serve to further erode accountability and transparency in the management of lands crucial to our communities and natural resources.

The proposal to determine the "market value" of militarized lands in Pohakuloa, Makua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho raises incredibly serious concerns, particularly given the track record of the US Army in our communities. Many times over, we have witnessed the detrimental impacts of military activities on our health, lands, water, and cultural sites, with little to no accountability or redress.

It is the obligation of the state to uphold the principle of "mālama 'āina" and ensure the protection and stewardship of the lands entrusted to its care, including those leased to the military. Instead of further relinquishing control and oversight, the state should be actively working to hold the US Army accountable for its actions and ensure the well-being of our communities and environment.

Granting authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of these lands would only serve to further remove accountability from both the state and the US Army, leaving our communities vulnerable to continued exploitation and harm.

I urge you to stand with our communities and oppose agenda item D.2. We must work together to uphold the sacred duty of stewardship and ensure a sustainable future for our lands and people, and we are counting on your commitment.

Thank you,

Michol Miller

**From:** [Michael Olsen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:02:48 AM

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I, Melissa Olsen, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Nancy M.](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Agenda Item D-2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:23:04 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I oppose giving authority to DLNR Chair Dawn Chang to negotiate, approve and execute a contract for appraisal services. The upcoming end to leases in Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho, Pōhakuloa, and Mākua mentioned in the informational briefing update states that the potential for a “land exchange.” As an advocate for land, water, and the wellbeing of the community, I believe an alternate solution is necessary. The United States military should not be permitted to renew leases or exchange land in Hawai’i due to their destructive track record. For instance, the jet fuel spill in Red Hill that’s still contaminating key water sources for Hawai’i families proves they refuse to take accountability for their actions. How can we entrust the US military with new parcels of land when they haven’t taken care of the toxic waste in areas they’re already occupying?

Furthermore, the forced displacement of Native Hawaiian and local families in Mākua valley proves the US military does not have the best interest in mind for the Hawai’i community. Advocacy groups such as Mālama Mākua fought for the 2001 legal settlement to prevent live range shooting. The land exchange proposed in this briefing would undo the decades long work of land protectors that established a safe environment for families.

I stand in solidarity with the work of environmental and demilitarization organizations who’ve fought to secure the health of Hawai’i. We call upon the Board of Land and Natural Resources to hold the US military accountable for their destruction by refusing the exchange of land because they’ve proven irresponsible for their actions. For these reasons, please vote no on agenda item D-2.

Best regards,  
Nancy Macias

**From:** [Ryan Mackinnon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:52:17 AM

---

I, (Ryan MacKinnon), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Carson Magoon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:12:11 AM

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I, Carson Magoon oppose D2. This motocross track is a way of life for many people and provides so much value to the local community. DO NOT change it or alter our access. That would be detrimental to many people in our community and the kids who need a safe and healthy way to recreate outdoors.

Thank you. I hope you choose the longevity of our local community in this decision.

Carson Magoon

(808) 333-2095

<https://www.magoonmedia.com/>



**From:** [Jonray Mahoe](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D-2 Makua  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:58:07 AM

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Aloha kākou,

Expanding military presence in Hawaii is not a path we should tread. It risks disrupting the delicate balance of the islands' ecosystem and infringes upon the rights and sovereignty of the native Hawaiian people. Instead of further militarization, efforts should be focused on preserving the unique cultural and environmental heritage of Hawaii for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

Keola Mahoe

**From:** [Kaimana Davis](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop Military from purchasing land in Hawaii  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:51:12 PM

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Aloha,

I would like to voice my concerns and urge the state not to enter any negotiations with the military for any types of transfer or sale of land here in Hawaii.

There is sufficient amounts of evidence to prove that the military are not good stewards of Hawaii. They will never be. They pollute everywhere they go. They have destroyed entire islands in the federated nations of Micronesia; left radioactive waste there. They use Hawaii as target practice, blowing up our beautiful home. They have ruined the water table in Kahoolawe, they blow up Pohakuloa and leave spent and unspent ammunitions everywhere there. They have forced Hawaiian people to relocate in Makua so they could use it as target practice, they have ruined our most valuable resource here on Oahu. Our water; Red Hill has not recovered a may never.

The reasons above are just some examples and truths. I hope that the BLNR chair person will see that the people of Hawaii are getting fed up with them. Please consider my stance and I urge you to do join us the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully  
Kaimana Maiola -Davis  
808.724.9930

Respect

Please  
Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Ku'uleilehua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:27:24 AM

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I am currently flying during the time of this Meeting and I vote to oppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for the appraisal of military lands.

The military has ruined the overall quality of our aina. The military deoccupation of these lands are necessary to insure the perpetuity of Hawai'i.

Red Hill, Kaho'olawe, Mākua Valley, Stairway to Heaven are all examples of lack of land and resource management.

Some occupied spaces are on designated Hawaiian Homelands and those lands were set aside with the intention of Hawaiians/Kanaka Maoli to stay in Hawai'i. Not for the military to utilize. If we have to prove our quantum, so do they and the American military has no genealogy to Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
Allison Ku'uleilehua Mānoa Makekau  
Also known as Poly Diva

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kehaulani malzl](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Kabuku Land  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:47:30 AM

---

As a Native Hawaiian who has grown up in the Laie, Kahuku area, I am writing to ask that the lands the military wish to purchase be preserved by the state of Hawaii for the local people who live there. Please DO NOT sell this land to the military.

Kehaulani Oleole Malzl

**From:** [Aubrey Yanger Mariano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote "NO" on Item D.2.  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:49:58 PM

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Aloha nui kākou,

As a concerned resident of this beloved pae ‘āina of Hawai‘i, I urge you to please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Ke aloha,

Aubrey Mariano

**From:** [Kawai Marks](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:40:59 AM

---

I, Kawai, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michele](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Michele Mateo](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:34:09 AM

---

I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Mahalo,  
Michele Mateo

**From:** [Stephanie Mathews](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the US Army request for assessment of Hawaiian Lands  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:36:17 AM

---

Sent from my iPhone To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

**From:** [Kirkland Mawae](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:46:32 PM

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I, Kirkland Mawae, oppose D2.

Military should not OWN any lands here in Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Angela M.](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:13:51 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.



Sincerely,  
Angela H. McCabe

**From:** [Mahina McRoberts](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:08:47 PM

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Aloha!

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. The military has shown multiple times that it does not and can not mālama the lands that they have utilized for decades. Prime examples are Red Hill and Kaho‘olawe. The State and military need to be kept accountable for the lands being utilized and the people of Hawai‘i should have a say in the process. Again, please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Mahalo piha,  
Mahina McRoberts  
Waimānalo, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

**From:** [Alfred Medeiros](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DNLN Meeting 04/12  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:22:17 AM

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Aloha...I would like give testimony and comments on agenda item D-2 please. If I could get the Zoom info, that'd be much appreciated. Mahalo  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Hanna Michaud](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:34:29 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In Ching v. Case (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in Ching v. Case in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

- Hanna Michaud

**From:** [Alex Miller](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:50:24 PM

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Aloha,

Please vote “NO” on agenda item D.2. I strongly oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

These lands, now leased to the military by the state, are Hawaiian national lands, conservation lands. Removing these lands from the lease renewal process would potentially give the military full control with no oversight from the people of Hawai‘i. Historically—factually—the military has been a poor steward to Hawaiian lands, completely devastating Kaho‘olawe and poisoning water resources at Red Hill. BWe must have the ability to review their stewardship and hold them accountable when they do not care for the ‘āina.

Mahalo,  
Alex Miller  
Honolulu resident

**From:** [Kealohi Minami](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Agenda Item D-2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:37:44 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I oppose giving authority to DLNR Chair Dawn Chang to negotiate, approve and execute a contract for appraisal services. The upcoming end to leases in Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho, Pōhakuloa, and Mākua mentioned in the informational briefing update states that the potential for a “land exchange.” As an advocate for land, water, and the wellbeing of the community, I believe an alternate solution is necessary. The United States military should not be permitted to renew leases or exchange land in Hawai’i due to their destructive track record. For instance, the jet fuel spill in Red Hill that’s still contaminating key water sources for Hawai’i families proves they refuse to take accountability for their actions. How can we entrust the US military with new parcels of land when they haven’t taken care of the toxic waste in areas they’re already occupying?

Furthermore, the forced displacement of Native Hawaiian and local families in Mākua valley proves the US military does not have the best interest in mind for the Hawai’i community. Advocacy groups such as Mālama Mākua fought for the 2001 legal settlement to prevent live range shooting. The land exchange proposed in this briefing would undo the decades long work of land protectors that established a safe environment for families.

I stand in solidarity with the work of environmental and demilitarization organizations who’ve fought to secure the health of Hawai’i. We call upon the Board of Land and Natural Resources to hold the US military accountable for their destruction by refusing the exchange of land because they’ve proven irresponsible for their actions. For these reasons, please vote no on agenda item D-2.

Best regards,

Kealohi Minami]

**From:** [Mitchell Olson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:04:05 AM

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I Mitchell Olson strongly oppose D2 land acquisition.



**From:** [kealohilani.molina](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:31:13 PM

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I, Kealohilani Molina, oppose D2.

**From:** [Makoa Moniz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:58:52 AM

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I, makoa moniz, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [donald.morgan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:24:44 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal off military lands.

These lands are not for sale.

These lands can be used to better the state in other ways.

Mahalo,  
Donald M. Morgan III  
Kaneohe

**From:** [dave mulinix](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Greenpeace Hawaii Request to Testify via Zoom re: Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:45:26 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

Greenpeace Hawaii is writing to request to testify via Zoom in strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa, and renewal of existing leases of State land to the US military. This proposal poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

We challenge two of the US Army's assertions that are provably false.

First their assertion that this land swap is essential for national security must be evaluated against the difference between what the military asserts as compared to what is actually true. The US military always uses the essential national security argument when they want something. They used this same argument to first prevent the removal of jet fuel from Red Hill, they knew was contaminating Oahu's drinking water, and then used that same argument to delay and obstruct the closure of that facility. They did so knowing full well that the Red Hill was contaminating the drinking water that was making thousands of Oahu residents and their own personnel sick. Once the information about the military continuing to contaminate Oahu's drinking water at Red Hill could no longer be covered up, they suddenly and miraculously found other places to store their jet fuel. Contrary to the US military assertions, it was actually possible to continue their national security goals without placing Oahu residents' health and safety at risk.

Their second erroneous argument is that the US military is a "Good Neighbor and a Valued Member of the Community." The reality is that the US military has been a terrible neighbor by their continuing to contaminate Hawaii's lands and waters, and their failure to notify residents of the dangers of the toxic messes that they have created in Hawaii, and they have done virtually nothing to clean up the toxic messes they've made.

In addition to their contaminating Oahu's drinking water with jet fuel and PFAS toxic chemicals at Red Hill, and contaminating Pōhakuloa with unexploded ordnance, the US military has also contaminated and failed to clean up 115 of their hazardous sites in the State of Hawaii with 43 determined by the US Department of Defense to be high and medium hazardous risk installations.

The US military has done little to nothing to clean up the toxic sites they have created in the name of national security that are dangerous to the health and safety of the people of Hawaii and their own personnel.

Further the US military disregard for the health and safety of the civilian population they have sworn to protect, as well as, their own

personnel is not unique to Hawaii. There are more than 40,000 hazardous sites across the country polluted by the US military. Many of these sites have extensive groundwater and soil pollution, or present a risk of exploding bombs and munitions.

Also according to the US Department of Defense, there are over 600 military sites that are superfund sites, which they have done little to nothing to try and clean up.

Finally a report by Durham and Lancaster University reveals that the US military is one of the largest climate polluters in history, emitting more CO2 than most nations. According to the report, if the US military were a country, it would be the world's 47th largest greenhouse gas emitter. And according to the Guardian, the US military's carbon footprint exceeds that of nearly 140 countries.

In summation contrary to their assertion, the US military has not proven to be a good neighbor in any way shape or form. The US military negligence and total disregard for human life is not in the best interest of national security or the health and safety of the people of Hawaii.

We urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, we implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations.

Mahalo for taking testimony on this important matter.  
Dave Mulinix, CoFounder  
Greenpeace Hawaii  
Resident of Ahuimanu, Oahu

**From:** [Summer & Hamzah & Dima Ibrahim](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request to testify via Zoom on item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:50:58 AM

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Summer Mullins-Ibrahim. A lineal descendant of the Helenihi ohana of Makua.

**From:** [neil.collins](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Land purchase  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:08:17 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted in order to purchase state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. Furthermore, I adamantly oppose the purchase of these lands by the US Army altogether. It is widely acknowledged within our community that the management of Pōhakuloa has been severely mishandled.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa encompass critically endangered plant habitats and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require the highest level of care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats at risk. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is just one example of the military's negligence that has endangered ecosystems in the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands also poses negative impacts on our human communities. Fires jeopardize the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. The loud noise from firing activity is disruptive to many. Additionally, the degradation of vegetation has led to a dustbowl scenario, where even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns about soil and water contamination from metals and chemicals used in military operations have not been adequately addressed. These lands also hold cultural significance, and continued desecration of this land is deeply distressing to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local residents who seek to see these environments treated with reverence.

In the case of *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State had failed in its duty to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure the Army's compliance with lease requirements related to debris cleanup. Pollution remains a persistent issue in this area, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to fulfill its obligation to verify that the Army is properly maintaining these lands as agreed upon. The consideration of selling these lands to the Army by the DLNR implies a lack of concern for our environment and the ongoing concerns raised by our community. By choosing to overlook the ruling in *Ching v. Case* and opting to sell leased lands, the State is setting a dangerous precedent and effectively condoning land mismanagement.

In conclusion, I urge the DLNR and all members to stand against the Army's request for land appraisal in order to purchase these lands from the State. The state leased lands must revert back to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Let this serve as notification you are breaking multiple laws on this proposed purchase so that you cannot say you were not aware of the specifics behind the purchase.

Mahalo Neil Collins  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lenea Naipo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony item D.2- oppose  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:41:25 AM

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Please vote NO on agenda item D.2. One person should not have the authority to negotiate contracts for appraisal of our aina deemed "military land." Environmental consequences must be properly evaluated. We already have a plethora of military-damaged Hawaiian lands because of unregulated and unevaluated permits and contracts. Red Hill and Kaho'olawe are just two examples. Lahaina is another example of mismanagement of land and resources. Allowing this item to pass will remove accountability from both the state and the military further devastating our precious aina. In 2019 the Supreme Court ruled that Hawai'i has an obligation to malama aina. It is unconstitutional to continue to give military and big business our land and waters with little to no accountability. This item is not backed by aloha aina practitioners or Hawaiians. If passed this will lead to unrest amongst the people and law suits against the state. Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration about the devastation and mismanagement we continue to see to our land and waters. Aloha.

Lenei Sousa Naipo



**From:** [Jordan Nakamura](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:26:20 AM

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Aloha Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jordan Kapono Nakamura and I'm writing to submit testimony expressing strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities on Pohakuloa and other army leases of state land. As an environmental conservation professional and kama'aina, I strongly call for no action alternative-- zero acres of state leased land to the military and no land swaps to allow the military to continue to contaminate and desecrate Hawai'i, its land, its air, and its waters.

It is an evident and well-documented fact that the majority of the lands and waters leased by the military have suffered alarming and hopefully not completely irreversible damage that immediately threatens to throw the life sustaining ecosystems of Hawai'i into crisis. The processes of remediation proposed by the military for past grievances have been dissatisfactory. Hawai'i requires and deserves much better than, for example, the mere 450 million clean up initiative spent over two decades ago that resulted in just 10% of Kaho'olawe's most surface level remediation tiers being cleaned. As it stands, the vast majority of the heavily toxified aina and waters of Kaho'olawe remain deeply contaminated.

Currently, the military's live fire testing at Pohakuloa requires a permanent end to active damage on the land, soil, air, and wildlife of not just the immediate region but the entire Hawaiian island chain interconnected ecosystem its ahupua'a is linked to. A comprehensive, community-monitored, and independent assessment of UXO and contamination introduced by military activity during its lease is crucial to develop a meaningful recovery path for the land, which must include a return of the land to the Hawaiian people. Pohakuloa is zoned "conservation land" which remains the highest protected land status. The military has repeatedly insisted that continuous bombing, shelling, weapons testing, and dumping of military waste at toxicity and volumes impossible to generate by any amount of civilian presence is acceptable treatment of conservation zone land. I along with many conservation professionals understand this is unacceptable conduct. The military has disregarded and completely failed to uphold any of the actions called for in Hawaii County Resolution 639-08, passed on July 2, 2008. The very first item in this resolution called for an end to all live-fire until an assessment like the one I mentioned earlier could be conducted and remediation on the presence and damage of depleted uranium radiation contaminants were completed. Instead, bombing and shelling continued, with the strong likelihood in each instance of resuspending toxins and sending contaminants like DU Oxide particles into Hawaii's atmosphere and spread throughout the islands. These contaminants are easily inhaled and rooted in severe health issues with generational ramifications. Pohakuloa furthermore has, as a result of the military's treatment, been transformed over years of abuse into a wildfire prone region.

A no action alternative where zero acres of Hawaiian leased land to the military will be allowed to remain in military hands is the best and most needed course of action toward aina recovery, according to a 2022 assessment submitted by DLNR director Suzanne Case and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands' K. Tiger Mills. This includes independent testing and a total clean-up and remediation of Makua, as well as a return of this land to Hawaiian hands and the care that has always been afforded the 'Aina under indigenous stewardship.

From a conservation and natural resources perspective, the solution to these severe issues threatening the wellbeing and health of every person in Hawaii clearly begins with the return of state leased land from the military back into Hawaiian stewardship. The military must be held accountable to its duty at least to fund the long remediation efforts ahead of us that it insists on not just ignoring its duty to uphold but also increasing the severity of the need for such efforts. Please exercise your kokua and kuleana to the people of Hawaii and act in accordance with what the life of the land requires now: demilitarization and a return of all military leased land back into Hawaiian stewardship, and comprehensive independent assessments of contamination, and the completion of remediation which the military as the perpetrating party must fund.

Mahalo nui,  
Jordan Kaponon Nakamura

**From:** [Nicole Nakata](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in OPPOSITION of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:35:54 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawaii Island and Oahu. I am opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the spaces leased by the army have egregiously mismanaged. Pohakuloa and Makua are just two examples, in a list of many, of how the US military mismanages land they occupy. These spaces are important cultural sites, home to critically endangered plants and animals, and important parts of Hawaii's ecosystems. Instead of treating these spaces with respect as a tenant, the Army has desecrated these spaces and taken actions that cause wildfires, and put human lives in danger. Army actions have degraded the land and impacted the ecosystems in and around these spaces. Soil and water contamination is rampant and threatens human and environmental health.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

I oppose item D-2 and implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Mahalo,  
Nicole

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sancia Miala Shiba Nash](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony// opposition to army's request  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:16:00 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Sancia Miala Shiba Nash

[puuhonua-society.org/nmoka-cataloging](http://puuhonua-society.org/nmoka-cataloging)

[sanciamiala.com](http://sanciamiala.com)

**From:** [Luke Nemy](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawai'i's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:13:27 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR Meeting.

This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the US Military which threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian Lands and the well-being of our entire community and natural ecosystems.

It is time for the US Military to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War 2. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused during their occupation.

These 'Fair Market' Evaluations are inherently skewed, as the zones proposed for assessment are preservation lands and thus have very little market value, meaning that the US military would only be offering the bare minimum for purchase, not to mention there are 80 years worth of remaining ordinance from Bombings and Live Fire training which still contaminates the land to this present day.

**I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2** and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities through other means of stewardship through organizations like Malama Makua who have been spearheading the restoration efforts of the land for the last 20 years.

We must not succumb to the pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint and we can do that together with your help if you so choose to join us and reject this item.

It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations, for the longevity and sustainability of Hawai'i and all her inhabitants.

Thank you for your time,

Luke Nemy  
Resident of Oahu

**From:** [Banzai Surfschool](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:15:57 AM

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I, Kalani Nozaki, oppose D2. There is already a heavy presence of military on the north shore of Oahu. We don't need more on here. They also pollute the area they use for training. I have experienced this first hand on the trails by my house or when then do training on the beach at Waimea Bay. They always leave a trail of trash. The military has no respect for Hawaii, culture, or history. Enough is enough!!!

**From:** [Martha Alicia Nuñez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:34:50 PM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

With great concern,  
Martha Nuñez



**From:** [Han Nuse](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Read  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:37:02 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing you all to express my strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted in order to purchase state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. Furthermore, I adamantly oppose the purchase of these lands by the US Army altogether. It is widely acknowledged within our community that the management of Pōhakuloa has been severely mishandled.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa encompass critically endangered plant habitats and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require the highest level of care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats at risk. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is just one example of the military's negligence that has endangered ecosystems in the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands also poses negative impacts on our human communities. Fires jeopardize the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. The loud noise from firing activity is disruptive to many. Additionally, the degradation of vegetation has led to a dustbowl scenario, where even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns about soil and water contamination from metals and chemicals used in military operations have not been adequately addressed. These lands also hold cultural significance, and continued desecration of this land is deeply distressing to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local residents who seek to see these environments treated with reverence.

In the case of *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State had failed in its duty to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure the Army's compliance with lease requirements related to debris cleanup. Pollution remains a persistent issue in this area, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to fulfill its obligation to verify that the Army is properly maintaining these lands as agreed upon. The consideration of selling these lands to the Army by the DLNR implies a lack of concern for our environment and the ongoing concerns raised by our community. By choosing to overlook the ruling in *Ching v. Case* and opting to sell leased lands, the State is setting a dangerous precedent and effectively condoning land mismanagement.

In conclusion, I urge the DLNR and all members to stand against the Army's request for land appraisal in order to purchase these lands from the State. The state leased lands must revert back to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Let this serve as notification you are breaking multiple laws on this proposed purchase so that you cannot say you were not aware of the specifics behind the purchase.

-Mahalo-

HANNAH NUSE

**From:** [Anthony Oberheim](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:37:24 PM

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I, Anthony Oberheim, oppose D2.

**From:** [KittyOdes](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:59:56 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



**From:** [Dawn Oh](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:32:08 AM

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Please vote no on the item D.2 on the agenda. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for appraisal of military lands. As a resident of the island of Hawai'i and part of a family that engages regularly as volunteers for planting and habitat restoration here along with others in our spare moments to heal even a small part of an ecosystem that is directly affected by these lands and their management we call on you to not discard your responsibility of care for this place for expediency.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dawn Oh  
Waimea, Hawai'i Island

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mark Oliveira](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:43:10 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

Aloha,

Please accept my written testimony that I strongly oppose the military getting an appraisal of the land to determine market value. This is one unnecessary as they are leasing the land and do not have any ownership of the land, two the intention of a possible land grab/swap is outrageous and wrong, and three they have not been good stewards of the land here in Hawaii. This has not only just affected our aina but our resources and the health of our people.

We must hold them accountable to be good stewards of the land during their lease and nothing more. No land swaps should be given or any process of any of kine should be initiated.

Mahalo,  
Mark Oliveira

**From:** [Michael Olsen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:02:17 AM

---

I, Michael D Olsen, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ayla Onaga](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:27:38 AM

---

Sent from my iPhone  
DONT SELL LAND THAT IS NOT YOURS!!



**From:** [kawehi onekea](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:05:40 PM

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Dear Board members,

I am writing to express my opposition to agenda item D.2 and urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate, approve, and execute a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

The US military has proven themselves time and time again to be poor stewards of the lands under their control. Kaho'olawe, Pearl Harbor, Pohakuloa, Makua Valley, Red Hill -- these lands were culturally important to Native Hawaiians and instead of being treated with respect and care, they have become some of the most polluted spots in Hawai'i.

The state should uphold its duty to malama 'aina and ensure the care and protection of the lands entrusted to it. In this case, that means ensuring that the US military be held accountable for the damage done to the above-referenced lands (by restoring the lands before the end of the lease) and not merely condemning or "swapping" them for other lands that they have a track record to treat the same way.

I urge the board to

- vote "No" on agenda item D.2
- preserve the land base entrusted to the state
- proactively protect 'aina from abuse

Thank you for your consideration.  
Kawehi Onekea

**From:** [Justin](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:40:32 AM

---

I, justin orbistondo, oppose D2.

Justin Orbistondo , RPSGT, BA  
[Orbie82@gmail.com](mailto:Orbie82@gmail.com)

**From:** [Makana Ortega](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:19:52 AM

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I, Paige Ortega, oppose D2. This motocross spot has been there since I was born & raised in Hawaii. Taking this away is very hurtful to our community as this has been a staple for alot of families & we grew up going to this place. This is home! Don't take away what left we have of our Hawaiian land!

RE: Testimony of Kayla Oshiro  
Item D-2  
April 12, 2024

Aloha,

I oppose the passing of item D2. We ought to stop the US military from purchasing Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaihoa and Mākua.

Sincerely,

Kayla Oshiro

**From:** [JACKIE Osumi](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:42:36 AM

---

I, Jackie, oppose D2.

**From:** [Mason Ottersberg](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:44:54 AM

---

I, mason Ottersberg, oppose D2.

Thank you,

Mason Ottersberg  
Ottersberggracing@gmail.com  
602-499-0869

**From:** [emma.overmyer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:03:04 AM

---

I, Emma Overmyer, oppose D2.

Emma Overmyer, MD  
emmataylorovermyer@gmail.com  
+61 422 303 190

**From:** [Marie Ashley Pagdilao](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:30:24 AM

---

I, Marie Ashley Pagdilao, oppose D2. This is the only place that allows dirt bike riders to ride and do what they love and enjoy. The military does not need to take over more parts of the islands.



**From:** [Tejah Paik](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:42:24 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must

return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029

**From:** ['Āina Paikai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:59:05 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Please vote NO on agenda item D.2 at todays hearing April 12th in regards to giving the Chair authority to negotiate a contract for appraisal of military lands. The United States military has only caused land degradation and must clean their mess for an appraisal to be accurate. Furthermore, they have been awful neighbors and and poor stewards and are no longer welcome in Hawaii.

Aloha,

Aina

**From:** [Peter](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 2:12:03 AM

---

I, Peter Pang, oppose D2. By allowing them to purchase that land and do what they please we will lose the only legal motocross area on the island. The military already owns a lot of land on the island of Oahu, a lot of very beautiful land I might add from places like Kaneohe and even bellows that stop local people from having access to some of the nicest beaches in the island. This is going to be another example of that.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mckenna Panui-Scobie](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:49:25 PM

---

I, McKenna Panui-Scobie , oppose D2. My family and I spend many of our Sundays up there riding, creating life long memories and relationships. It's more than just a place to ride. We have a family of 7, each of us ride with the grandparents, aunties and uncles. It is there that we learn so much life skills. I hope my kids can continue our families legacies up there with their keiki.

Mahalo

Mckenna Panui-Scobie

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Brandon Paras](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:29:44 AM

---

I, Brandon Paras, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Natalie Parra](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:55:21 AM

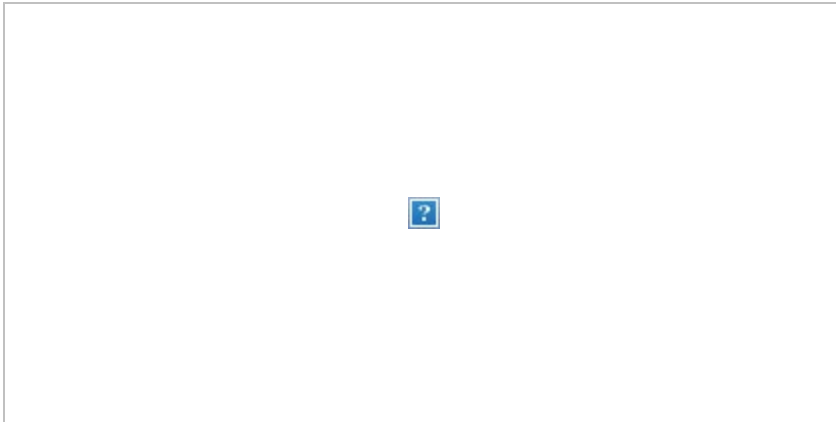
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On behalf of our thousands of supporters, we kindly ask Hawai'i's Board of Land and Natural Resources to oppose any efforts by the Division of Aquatic Resources to reopen commercial aquarium collection in Hawai'i.

For years, local communities, scientists, and even visitors to Hawai'i have urged lawmakers and the Board to protect Hawai'i's fish from the commercial aquarium trade. The islands' fragile reef ecosystems are already plagued with invasive species, warmer waters, and increased acidity. The reefs need the herbivorous species targeted by collectors more than ever. Their removal from these critical ecosystems for the financial gain of a small group of collectors is not worth the risks.

**Please continue to prohibit the collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade.**

--



**From:** [Amy Parsons](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony item D-2 - oppose  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:20:32 AM

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Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to item D-2 on agenda for the BLNR meeting.

The military must honor its original agreement to return the leased land to Hawaii in the condition they found it in upon their occupation. Under no circumstances should they be able to obtain this land permanently. They have proven they do not care for the land, nor people, by destroying natural spaces, polluting wai, and leaving lifetimes of dangerous ordnance across the areas they occupy.

The BLNR should reject item D-2 and put the people and land of Hawaii first. It is time to reduce the military footprint here, and perpetuate caring for the aina for all current and future generations.

Mahalo,

Amy Parsons  
Honolulu



**From:** [Gerald Pasol](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:04:36 AM

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I, Gerald Pasol, oppose D2. Especially with it being one of the only MX tracks on the island.

**From:** [Kai Pattison](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:03:06 AM

---

I, Kai Pattison, oppose D2.

**From:** [Keoni Payton](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hana Hou, in case you guys never see the other one!  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:10:47 AM

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To the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted in order to purchase state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. Furthermore, I adamantly oppose the purchase of these lands by the US Army altogether. It is widely acknowledged within our community that the management of Pōhakuloa has been severely mishandled.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa encompass critically endangered plant habitats and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require the highest level of care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats at risk. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is just one example of the military's negligence that has endangered ecosystems in the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands also poses negative impacts on our human communities. Fires jeopardize the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. The loud noise from firing activity is disruptive to many. Additionally, the degradation of vegetation has led to a dustbowl scenario, where even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns about soil and water contamination from metals and chemicals used in military operations have not been adequately addressed. These lands also hold cultural significance, and continued desecration of this land is deeply distressing to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local residents who seek to see these environments treated with reverence.

In the case of *Ching v. State* (2019), it was determined that the State had failed in its duty to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure the Army's compliance with lease requirements related to debris cleanup. Pollution remains a persistent issue in this area, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to fulfill its obligation to verify that the Army is properly maintaining these lands as agreed upon. The consideration of selling these lands to the Army by the DLNR implies a lack of concern for our environment and the ongoing concerns raised by our community. By choosing to overlook the ruling in *Ching v. State* and opting to sell leased lands, the State is setting a dangerous precedent and effectively condoning land mismanagement.

In conclusion, I urge the DLNR and all members to stand against the Army's request for land appraisal in order to purchase these lands from the State. The state leased lands must revert back to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Let this serve as notification you are breaking multiple laws on this proposed purchase so that you cannot say you were not aware of the specifics behind the purchase.

-Mahalo-  
-KEONI PAYTON.

**From:** [Sam Peck](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:17:47 PM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. End the colonization of our lands and water. Aole military destruction, give the land back to the people

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**From:** [Shaena Peralto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:41:28 PM

---

I, Shaena, oppose D2.

Kahuku Motocross Track must stay open. As an Oahu, HI rider, I do feel obligated to share my reasons why the track should be a permanent sanctuary for bike riders.

My family has been apart of the Kahuku Motocross Track community since it's been established in the 1970's. From personal experience I witness how much that mountain affects so many people from all communities in Hawaii and even the mainland.

First reason:

People would drive in "weekend Northshore traffic" from all over the island, East, West, and fly in from other islands & mainland to go to this 1 mountain. Why? Because,...

it's the only place on the island we as trail & track riders are legally allowed to do what we do which is "Ride".

If there is no sanctioned place for riders. It will negatively affect communities. Without Kahuku Motocross Track, people & underage children may turn to illegal use of bikes and may cause more harm and trouble to the communities. There also has been proven stories that "Kahuku track & trails" has helped with youth development not just mentally and physically but even with their future endeavors as they grow into adulthood.

Second reason:

Supports Hawaii Economy.

Kahuku Motocross Track attracts not only our local communities but also tourist/ riders from communities all over the USA. Because of the Motocross track there are also small local businesses that do depend on the tracks to stay open.

Third reason:

Kahuku Motocross Track has stories written in the dirt from tires of riders thru generations. Celebrating birthdays, to people's life changing marriage proposals, family bonding moments that will last forever, to a riders last wishes to rest where they were most happy.

Please Keep Kahuku Motocross Track open.

Mahalo nui loa.

-Shaena P.

**From:** [Brandi](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:41:28 AM

---

I, Brandi K Perez, oppose D2. Enough is enough! STOP TAKING AWAY OUR FUN!

**From:** [Nani Peterson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:47:39 AM

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Aloha,

I am a teacher and unfortunately will not be able to attend the meeting in person, however, i, and a handful of my students would like to give testimony on this matter on zoom. There will be about 10 of my students that would be online with me in class. Mahalo for understanding.  
Nani

**From:** [storage.berm.0i@icloud.com](mailto:storage.berm.0i@icloud.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:37:14 AM

---

I, Sarah James Piedra, oppose D2.



**From:** [Christine Chang](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:56:05 AM

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Aloha mai,

Please do not take the first step into potentially selling these lands to the army. Any market value assessment should be for fair market rent, not fair market sale. These land must be continued to held in public trust for Hawaii's people, with the obligation to mālama 'āina, with full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo piha,  
Christine Chang  
(House District 25, Senate District 13)

**From:** [Romy Polinar-Pascua Jr.](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:25:15 AM

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I Romy Polinar-Pascua oppose D2. Space for safe and marshaled motocross is only achievable in the mountains of Kahuku MX park. Do not take the land that has been ridden of for so many years.

**From:** [terry.pualoa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:03:30 PM

---

I OPPOSE D2.

**From:** [Juliette Puplava](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2 - Opposition  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:23:53 AM

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I, juliette puplava, oppose D2.

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

**From:** [Rychelle purdy-espinda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:14:37 PM

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I, Rychelle Purdy-Nakamura oppose D2.

Do not let the military take more land from people of Hawaii !

**From:** [teresa\\_purugganan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:10:28 PM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Mahalo for listening. May you receive this message with the aloha of these Lands & work to protect them by voting no on Agenda Item D.2.

Me ke aloha,  
Teresa Mupas Purugganan



**From:** [Mariko Quinn](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D2: Appraisal of Fair Market Value Currently Leased to the US Military  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:23:50 AM

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Aloha kākou,

I strongly oppose agenda item D2, as it relates to the appraisal of current leased lands in preparation for a potential land swap.

These lands are ceded lands which were directly stolen from the Kingdom of Hawai‘i during the illegal overthrow. Furthermore, under the control of the state of Hawai‘i, these lands are zoned for conservation and preservation- and therefore should not be subject to any activity that threatens the ‘āina and natural habitat.

The military deserves to pay for the damage it has already done to our lands, such as Mākua valley. They have demonstrated time and time again that they are not willing to maintain or care for the lands that they lease- a fact of which BLNR should be more than aware of and alarmed by.

I strongly oppose the sale of any land from BLNR control to the US military. I strongly oppose the appraisal of these lands for the purpose of informing a land swap.

Thank you for your time,  
Mariko Quinn



**From:** [rina bangs](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding Item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:33:06 AM

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Dear DLNR,

I am writing today concerning the negotiations to allow the sales of land outlined in Item D-2. The most pressing issues affecting Hawaiians today are homelessness and pollution. Both of these issues are exacerbated by the overwhelming military presence in Hawaii. Land at Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa must be repatriated and rehabilitated. The many spills at Red Hill and Pearl Harbor, the mess left from drills and unexploded ordinance at training grounds like Pōhakuloa, and the social issues of sexual assault and sex trafficking around US military bases are just a few of the many issues that Hawaiian citizens suffer from the occupation of the US military.

With the shortage of homes, especially after the Maui fires, we need more space for families and local workers. We need to foster a community of safety for humans and our precious, fragile, and unique fauna and flora. If the US military wants to help protect Hawaii, they can start by cleaning up the mess they made, and giving the land back to the people. Respectfully, if negotiations for sales are allowed to pass, this is likely to set back progress for building these important foundations for locals by years, and possibly block them from happening at all.

**From:** [Ray Smith](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No lease renewal  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:33:49 AM

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No land swap, purchase, or lease renewals of land to the US military for stated reasons; and military to clean the previous leased land.

No other options should be on the table.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sean Rabes](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawaii's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:57:22 AM

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Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose Item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused. I urge the BLNR to reject Item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo,  
Sean Rabes  
Resident of Kailua, O'ahu.

**From:** [Elizabeth Rago](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY, ITEM D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:29:56 AM

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Aloha,  
Please vote No on agenda item D.2.

As a resident of Kahuku, HI, I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.  
Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth J. Rago

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:**

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**From:** [Cadence Ragonton](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:55:09 PM

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I, Cadence Ragonton, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Daniel Razon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:37:33 AM

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I Daniel, oppose I am writing vehemently to oppose item D-2 agenda for the upcoming BLNE meeting. This item. Which pertains to the appraisal of land leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities.

IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO HONOR ITS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT MADE AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. THEY HAVE HAD THE USE OF THESE LANDS FOR OVER 80 YEARS UNDER THE PROMISE OF RETURNING THEM IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONDITION. IT IS LONG OVERDUE FOR THEM TO FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY HAVE CAUSED.

URGE THE BLNR TO REJECT ITEM D-2 AND INSTEAD PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF OUR LANDS AND COMMUNITIES. WE MUST NOT SUCCUMB TO PRESSURES TO EXPAND THE MILITARY FOOTPRINT IN OUR ISLANDS AND INSTEAD WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT TO REDUCE THEIR FOOTPRINT. IT IS TIME TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Sent from my iPhone

April 11, 2024

To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu, item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming DLNR meeting. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect. I urge the DLNR to reject Item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Me ke ha'aha'a,



Tiare Ribeaux

**From:** [Alejandra](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:19:54 AM

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Aloha Board Members,

Vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to agenda item D.2 and urge you to vote against granting authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. Granting such authority would only serve to further erode accountability and transparency in the management of lands crucial to our communities and natural resources.

The proposal to determine the "market value" of militarized lands in Pohakuloa, Makua, Kahuku, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho raises serious concerns, particularly given the track record of the US Army in our communities. Time and time again, we have witnessed the detrimental impacts of military activities on our health, lands, water, and cultural sites, with little to no accountability or redress.

It is the obligation of the state to uphold the principle of "mālama 'āina" and ensure the protection and stewardship of the lands entrusted to its care, including those leased to the military. Instead of further relinquishing control and oversight, the state should be actively working to hold the US Army accountable for its actions and ensure the well-being of our communities and environment.

Granting authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of these lands would only serve to further remove accountability from both the state and the US Army, leaving our communities vulnerable to continued exploitation and harm.

I urge you to stand with our communities and oppose agenda item D.2. Let us work together to uphold the sacred duty of stewardship and ensure a sustainable future for our lands and people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Alejandra Rivas



**From:** [Kyle Roach-Laing](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:19:18 AM

---

I, Kyle Roach-Laing, oppose D2.

**From:** [jaime rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:08:27 AM

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## I OPPOSE D2

1. WHAT DO THE PLAN TO DO WITH THE LAND?
2. THE LAND IS THE LAND. NOT A PLAYGROUND FOR ASSASINS TO TRAIN.
3. USE THAT SPACE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE FIRES OR THE HOMELESS
4. YOU GUYS DONT LEARN FROM PAST MISTAKES ???
5. USE YOUR HEAD AND OPEN YOUR EYES

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Briana Rodrique](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:32:28 PM

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Aloha kākou,

Please vote no on the agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

In 2019, the Hawai'i State Supreme Court ruled that the State of Hawai'i has an obligation to monitor, inspect, and mālama 'āina that is leased to the military. If the military is allowed to start the process of negotiating a land swap or condemn the land, that would be at odds with the state having to make sure the lands are cared for. We've seen what happens when the military has total control over a place, like with Kaho'olawe and Red Hill.

Mahalo nō for your consideration,  
Briana Rodrique  
Resident of Pana'ewa, Hawai'i County

**From:** [Rowena Rojo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TOTALLY Against Military from buying our Hawaiian Lands!!!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:25:21 PM

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I am a Native Hawaiian woman, and am 100% against the military buying out our Hawaiian Lands to Use, Abuse & destroy!!!  
'A'ole!!!

Signed,  
Rowena Rojo

**From:** [Mary Romero](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:49:35 PM

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I, Mary Romero, oppose D2.

**From:** [Alexander Rose](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:17:18 AM

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I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,  
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed:

Alex Rose

**From:** [Lindsay Ryan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:43:26 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands

Mx. Lindsay Ryan, MEd, QMHP  
(they/he)

**From:** [Graciela Rynn](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:02:26 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

These state lands might be helpful for military training at Pōhakuloa, but much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that most firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Above all, the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū are atrocious and unjustifiable. The military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case, which comes as no surprise. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

As the current legal status of Hawaii as an illegally occupied/annexed land by the US government, no US military should be able to purchase land as a commodity, as it is desecration to the Hawaiian people/culture/land. Selling/swapping land for military use is an embarrassment on part of the US and an insult to native Hawaiian people in the face of the land/housing crisis that inhibits them from ever buying the land that was stolen from their ancestors.

In conclusion, I plead for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa as a means of prioritizing the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for your consideration.

Grace Rynn, Hale'iwa



**From:** [Starr Kalahiki](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:23:26 AM

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I, Starr Kalahiki, oppose D2. Your devisive plan gives the US Military's continued illegal occupation of Hawaii even more excuses to desecrate our home. For the protection of our water and to sustain life on these islands, choose life, not destruction.

Aloha aina,  
Starr Kalahiki  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [reece sabino](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:43:51 AM

---

I, (Reece), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jami Sai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:53:07 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

Mahalo

**From:** [Chris Sakoda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:48:15 AM

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I, Chris Sakoda , oppose D2.

I am writing vehemently to oppose item D-2 agenda for the upcoming BLNE meeting. This item. Which pertains to the appraisal of land leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities.

IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO HONOR ITS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT MADE AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. THEY HAVE HAD THE USE OF THESE LANDS FOR OVER 80 YEARS UNDER THE PROMISE OF RETURNING THEM IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONDITION. IT IS LONG OVERDUE FOR THEM TO FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY HAVE CAUSED.

URGE THE BLNR TO REJECT ITEM D-2 AND INSTEAD PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF OUR LANDS AND COMMUNITIES. WE MUST NOT SUCCUMB TO PRESSURES TO EXPAND THE MILITARY FOOTPRINT IN OUR ISLANDS AND INSTEAD WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT TO REDUCE THEIR FOOTPRINT. IT IS TIME TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Sent from my iPhone

April 12, 2024

To: Board of Land and Natural Resources  
From: Owana Ka'ōhelelani Salazar  
[royal@crownofhawaii.com](mailto:royal@crownofhawaii.com)  
RE: Testimony to Agenda Item D. 2

#### D. LAND DIVISION

2. Informational Briefing Update on the United States Army Training Land Retention Efforts for the Pōhakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawai'i and for Kahuku, Kawaioloa-Poamoho, and Mākua Training Lands on the Island of O'ahu.

And

Authorize the Chairperson to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to determine the Fair Market Value Currently Leased by the United States Army, TMK's as listed.

## T E S T I M O N Y

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

ALL Hawaii lands currently leased to military are CROWN LANDS. Under Kingdom Law and historically through today and forward, CROWN LANDS are INALIENABLE and *never to be sold*.

Clearly, the Army's request to purchase said lands (TMK's as listed) is their response to the public outcries against the renewal of their leases. Is this an arm twisting strategy in order to obtain a renewal of their Leases, or perhaps a strategy in order to negotiate for Mauna Kea?

Clearly, the U.S. military has destroyed so much of Hawaii's resources. Red Hill being the most recent glaring example. Hawaii's natural resources cannot ultimately sustain itself under the eternal threats of havoc and potential annihilation. On May 6 2021, the Red Hill disaster struck and today, three years later, we are still plagued with water contamination, injured individuals and families with no healing in sight, children who will grow up with diseases yet to be discovered and assigned some kind of new name, and other dreadful matters yet unknown. Even more tragic, the current grievous condition of that specific water table and its own ability to provide clean water to the people of Hawaii.

It is strangely and tragically ironic that every other item on this very same agenda prioritizes the conservation, protection, shared responsibilities between various agencies, and other service's specifically intended to take care and nurture our precious natural God given resources of Hawaii. Yet, this ONE agenda item, if approved, will ultimately trigger the grim destruction of every precious natural resource upon and within those Crown Lands the Army now wishes to purchase, albeit illegally.

**That said, I do support and will appreciate receiving the "Informational Briefing Update on the United States Army Training Land Retention Efforts for the Pōhakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawai'i and for Kahuku, Kawaioloa-Poamoho, and Mākua Training Lands on the Island of O'ahu."**

**However, I do not support and I do implore this body to DENY any decision to "Authorize the Chairperson to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for Appraisal Services to determine the Fair Market Value Currently Leased by the United States Army, TMK's as listed."**

Again, ALL Hawaii lands currently leased to military are CROWN LANDS. Under Kingdom Law and historically through today and forward, CROWN LANDS are INALIENABLE and *never to be sold*.

Respectfully submitted: Owana Ka'ōhelelani Salazar [royal@crownofhawaii.com](mailto:royal@crownofhawaii.com)

**From:** [Jason Salvador](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:01:14 PM

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I, Jason Salvador, oppose D2. The Kahuku Motocross track is the only area that our riding community has to legally ride, and hold races. This place has deep roots to Oahu's Motocross history, and would be really sad to see it taken away for no good reason. Generations of Families have spent their hard work, blood, and sweat to keep the riding area groomed to where it is at today. Please don't let our one and ONLY cherished riding park go to waste!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joy Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:39:38 PM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

Respectfully, Joy Sanchez

**From:** [Sanoë I](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:21:39 AM

---

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of lands leased to the military.



**Testimony of Emily Sarasa**  
Before the Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Friday, April 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Kalanimoku Building, Room 132  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: Agenda item D-2, Opposition to Army Land Retention Efforts and Appraisal**

Dear Chair Chang and members of the Board,

I am law student focused on environmental and international issues. I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to agenda item D-2, which authorizes the Chairperson to negotiate, approve, and execute a contract for appraisal services to determine the fair market value currently leased by the United States Army at Pōhakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawai'i and for Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Training Lands on the Island of O'ahu.

The State of Hawai'i has a duty to protect and preserve public trust lands, including these specific lands, for the benefit of Native Hawaiians and the general public. [Ching v. Case](#), 145 Hawai'i 148 (Haw. 2019). The U.S. Military has historically desecrated Hawai'i's natural resources through pollution, destructive bombings, and unexploded ordnances. Facilitating the U.S. Military's occupation and ongoing destruction of ceded lands violates Hawai'i's [public trust doctrine](#).

Under HRS Chapter 91, the purpose of this Board receiving testimony is to ensure that the public is heard. The community clearly and overwhelmingly opposes this appraisal and supports demilitarization. The State of Hawai'i should not further entrench the U.S. Military in these public trust lands, especially when doing so violates the will and wellbeing of the public. **Please oppose authorization for this land appraisal, and please do not renew the lease.**

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Emily Sarasa  
Kaimukī resident, 96816  
esarasa@hawaii.edu

**From:** [James Savatgy](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:15:48 AM

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I, James Savatgy, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Braxton Say](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:01:48 AM

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I, Braxton JK Say, oppose D2

Please consider other options before giving the US military full ownership of this land. For decades, Kahuku mountain has served as the ONLY legal place for off-road vehicles (motorcycles and atvs). The park only operates for a total of 24 out of 168 hours available weekly. We understand that the military has priority control so when they ask for park closures for military training, we are used to having the park shut down for an entire month a few times a year. With all this land/time dedicated for training, all we ask for is our small portion to go untouched so we may enjoy the park with our families and friends for many more generations.

With a complete closure of Kahuku park, I believe there will also be many negative outcomes. There off-roading community here has already been established and is too strong to simply bring to a halt. With no legal place to ride, I believe riders will have no option but to turn to exploring illegal riding areas as we have seen in areas such as Mililani/Waipio, Helemano, Pearl City Palisades, etc. The expectation that the off-roading community will simply stop riding, sell their vehicles and move on to another sport is highly unlikely to happen. It can almost be compared to the amount of drivers who sold their personal vehicles to ride HART. Which as we can observe is almost nobody. Please consider all of these things before making a final decision. Mahalo for your time.

**From:** [taylor.schumm](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:01:40 AM

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I, Taylor Schumm, oppose D2.

**From:** [Juliana Sebben](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:21:04 PM

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Aloha,

My name is Juliana Sebben and I am a Kauai resident (96746) writing in because I oppose agenda item D2. Please vote no. I oppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. This land must instead be respectfully stewarded, protected, and cared for. Military presence across the Hawaiian islands has had devastating consequences for both the land and local population. This can be seen in the example cases of Red Hill and Kaho'olawe, and must not be allowed to continue through military expansion.

Furthermore, the perpetrators of this harm must be held accountable. Giving the army these lands through a land swap or condemnation removes accountability from the state of Hawaii and the US army in their obligations to protect these lands.

## Mālama 'Āina

Vote no on agenda item D2.

Mahalo,  
Juliana Sebben

**From:** [Mason Selley](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawai'i's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:46:25 PM

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I am writing this email to oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming DLNR meeting.

The United States Army needs to give these lands back in the condition that they got them in over eighty years ago. The constant bombings, ammunition and fuel that has been unleashed onto the land is not sustainable and does not align with many of the residents and Native Hawaiian beliefs.

If you care about people's voices you will do the right thing and give the land back.

**From:** [Shrek and donkey asmr](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:49:37 AM

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I, Nathan Senn, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Avi Shai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [DLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:23:24 AM

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Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Avi Shai, Kailua-Kona



**From:** [Chandler Sharp](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:42:35 AM

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I Chandler Sharp adamantly oppose D2 and the expansion of military ownership and operation of and on native lands in Hawai'i. Specifically the Kahuku area and motocross track.

Mahalo,

Chandler Sharp

**From:** [Kaylene Sheldon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com); [klhpoliticalactioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:klhpoliticalactioncommittee@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:11:46 AM

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Attention to: Board Of Land And Natural Resources

Aloha kākou:

My name is Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon. I work in the Kahuku area and live in Ko'olauloa. My ancestral lands are from Moku O Keawe, Manokalanipo to Kawaihoa on Oahu. I am writing to you to ask that you please vote no on agenda item D2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. My hānai father as a young boy would explore the mauka area for traditional gatherings and hunting. He collected explosives that the military left during their training areas in the mountains of Punalu'u and Hau'ula during WWII. He found a grenade and cut it open being curious and not knowing that it was a grenade. It exploded and left fragments in his body. The military came and confiscated the tons of shells, explosives that my dad collected but still didn't clean up Oahu of it's harmful weapons. There was no compensation for my dad's health who I lost at the age of 52. Finding ways to bypass the lease renewal process for the military is death to Kanaka. Please don't allow death to Kanaka especially the last ones standing on Oahu. The lands should not be for sale, swap, condemnation or negotiated especially with the military's reputation for not being responsible stewards.

Another problem is that Kahuku residents already have to cope and monitor the wind turbines now they will have to suffer with dirty water and noisy military training. The sacred sites of our ancestral lands of Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa-Poamoho deserves respect and life not death. Please choose LIFE, E OLA, bypass PAIN and DEATH by voting 'a'ole to the military and put your foot down by choosing LIFE and not DEATH to the irresponsible military settlers that continue to kill and destruct.

Me ka mana'o 'oia'i'o,  
Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon

**From:** [R.Shimoda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 & F3 - Opposition Email  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:52:58 AM

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Dear Sir or Madame,

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery and support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. It is insanity to rely on sentiments of animal rights advocates who had no understanding of proper wildlife management but only assume the captive animals are being treated inhumanely.

It's this idiotic thinking that has resulted in the runaway population of Axis deer on Maui who are damaging valuable crops or dying of starvation. With the lack of a predator to keep a species population in check, rampant overpopulation is a result.

The State recently saw and is still experiencing the effects of losing tourism. I fail to see how it's in the taxpayers' best interest to ban another source of income that isn't related to tourism.

Hopefully reason will prevail and the aquarium fishery industry won't be banned. If it is, I hope all Democrat legislators are happy with their efforts to make Hawaii totally dependent on tourism. The next tourism shutdown will result in even greater havoc than the last one.

Good day

Randall Shimoda

**From:** [Justin Silvia](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:13:57 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I OPPOSE D2!,

The military already occupies 21% of Oahus land, there is simply no reason to have another supposed 22,000 acres of land under military control. It would take away from communities, and the military can just use the vast amount of land they already have under their control for example kailua marine corp base or the Schofield barracks land.

**From:** [Shawn Skarban](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:10:35 AM

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I, (Shawn R Skarban ), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aurora Pualalea Slover](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote "NO" on Item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:47:08 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

There is a long standing history of the people, especially Kānaka Maoli, the native peoples of this land, opposing the military occupation of the Hawaiian lands under the 2029 leases.

As a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in Wai‘anae, our community has seen and suffered the consequences of the unethical and unjust \$1 lease given to the U.S. Army. Not only have they previously lied relentlessly about the destruction of our Native/Endemic plant/animal species, but they’ve also made the area dangerous and uninhabitable (like Kaho‘olawe) with the thousands of UXOs unaccounted for from the mountains to the sea. This was once a thriving area where people lived but where there is now only limited access to public along with people’s lives in danger due to unaccounted UXOs. As part of the Mālama Mākua initiative, pressure from Hawai‘i’s communities and politicians have led the the Army having to found an entire Natural Resource Program division on O‘ahu to do reforestation work in fragile environments impacted by U.S. Military training. However, no program or amount of money will ever be enough to reverse the militant destruction on Mākua or any of the other illegally leased lands. This has already negatively impacted our ‘āina na people and will have a long lasting negative effect for future generations to come.

There is no “market value” for these lands. The lands must be returned to the people, to the original stewards. I hope someday down the line it will eventually be cleaned up completely, this was actually part of the agreement the military made, to have these lands cleaned up by its 2029 lease end. This land has the high potential of being stewarded and thriving once again. But this can only happen with its return to the people.

So please, vote NO on item D.2. Saying yes would allow for negotiations to continue keeping these lands in the mistreatment of the US military’s hands.

Listen to the people.

**From:** [nathan smith](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:22:17 PM

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I, (Nathan kealii smith), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Morgan Snyder](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:20:23 AM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am a disable veteran's spouse who currently resides on O'ahu writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waikīkī and Waikāloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl



situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this ʻĀina is painful to Kānaka ʻŌiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. While I understand the army won't just leave I think they should have to at the very least lease the lands in shorter increments with an environmental impact plan in place. If

they can't do that the state leased lands should return to the State. The army shouldn't be able to purchase land.

Thank you for your time,

Morgan Snyder

**From:** [Trisha-Leigh Soliai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:23:29 AM

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Aloha,

Please vote NO on agenda item D.2, I oppose to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. We have seen the devastation it has caused our lands over the years. If we continue to let this happen we will have nothing left for our generations to come. Giving the military this power means they will feel entitled to everything above or around these lands. I will oppose to this negotiation for as long as I live. I will teach my grandchildren to do the same. We have seen nothing, but abuse from the United States Military and their use of land here in Hawai'i. This is not their practice for war, this is our home and we must do everything we can to preserve and protect it.

Mahalo for your time,  
Trisha Soliai

**From:** [Kaulana Solomon](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote "NO" to Agenda Item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:02:38 AM

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Vote NO on Item D.2. to oppose contract negotiation for military land appraisal!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Healani Sonoda-Pale](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:54:01 AM

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I, Healani Sonoda-Pale, oppose D2. The Red Hill clean up and mitigation of the significant contamination of O'ahu's water and land (all caused by the US Navy and Department of Defense) is not even near to completion. Families are still (two years after the November 2021 fuel spill into our drinking water) dealing with serious health effects and water contamination. The US Military presence here in Hawai'i has been detrimental to our communities and environment to a point where we are now living with uncertainty about a livable Hawai'i. We have to begin steps to liberate Kanaka Maoli and our non human relatives out from illegal US military occupation. The lands being occupied by the US military are stolen Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands and as a Kanaka Maoli who holds an undivided interest in the lands - I do not give consent or permission for these lands to be held, leased or or sold to the US military.

All land held by the US military need to be cleaned up and returned to the native people of Hawai'i not sold off.

The military leases for Pohakuloa, Makua, Kahuku, Poa-Moho between the Department of Defense and the State of Hawai'i should not be used as leverage for the clean up and remediation of Red Hill.

With aloha,

Healani Sonoda-Pale

**From:** [Gavin Sorenson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:18:12 AM

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I, Gavin sorenson, oppose D2.

**From:** [Dallin Sossin](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:52:16 AM

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I, (Dallin), oppose D2. Keep Hawaiian lands in local hands military has enough laces already on island

**From:** [Kalamakuakahawaii Souza](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:24:24 AM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. These land should be returned to the Hawaiian people.

Mahalo,  
Kalamakuakahawaii Souza

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Nahaku Spencer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:13:03 PM

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Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed military land purchase in Kahuku. As a resident of Kahuku and a member of this community, I firmly believe that allowing the military to acquire land here would jeopardize the prosperity and well-being of local families for generations to come.

Kahuku is more than just a geographical location; it is a vibrant community where families have thrived for decades. The land in question is not just parcels on a map; it is the very foundation upon which our livelihoods and cultural heritage are built. Generations of families have worked tirelessly to cultivate this land, fostering a deep connection to its soil and history.

Allowing the military to purchase land in Kahuku would disrupt the delicate balance that sustains our community. It would not only displace families but also threaten the sustainability of local businesses and the unique way of life that defines Kahuku. Moreover, the military's presence could have detrimental effects on the environment and wildlife in the area, further undermining the long-term prosperity of our community.

Instead of allowing the military to encroach upon our land, I urge you to consider alternative solutions that prioritize the well-being and prosperity of Kahuku's families. Investments in education, infrastructure, and sustainable development would not only benefit our community but also contribute to the greater good of our state.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you oppose the military's land purchase in Kahuku. Let us work together to preserve the rich heritage and prosperity of our community for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Nahaku P.D. Spencer

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Micah Spiegler](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Please don't buy the track  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:33:41 AM

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I oppose D-2 land acquisition

On Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 10:05 AM Micah Spiegler <[micahspiegler@gmail.com](mailto:micahspiegler@gmail.com)> wrote:

Please don't buy that land so much good comes from it for our community and if you buy it it will all be taken away I have made so many friends and memories there and it has become my main hobby and sport like that is my life style and if you take that away I won't have a life anymore please don't buy the track.

**From:** [Harrison Stanley-Ham](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:17:41 AM

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I, (Harrison Stanley), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kanoelani Steward](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting: Fri. 4/12; Testimony, Item D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:00:31 AM

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Aloha nui,

My name is Kanoelani Steward and I am submitting written testimony is strong opposition of Agenda Item D2. I strongly disagree with authorizing the Chairperson to negotiate, approve, and execute a contract for the United States Army on military leased lands. Following through on this contract will only lead to more detrimental and harmful damage to our 'āina,. We need to hold the United States Army and the State of Hawai'i accountable for their obligations to mālama the lands that they lease. Red Hill and Kaho'olawe are both prime examples of when of detrimental damage when no one is held accountable. Please vote NO on Agenda Item D2 today.

Mahalo nui,  
Kanoelani Steward

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**From:** [Julie Stowell](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition to the proposed land swap at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:59:58 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama 'āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

**SHOW US THE TREATY.**

You actually have no legal right to do any commerce here in Hawaii. The State of Hawaii is illegally seizing privately owned land.

Mahalo,

Julie Stowell

Hamakua Hawaii

**From:** [Kaiqing Su](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Agenda Item D-2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:53:53 PM

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Hello,

My name is Kaiqing Su. I am a graduate student at UH Mānoa. I strongly urge the board to reject the proposal to appraise and exchange ceded land of equal value. Mākua Valley and other militarized lands should be restored to their original state as per the initial agreement reached over 80 years ago. Please right the historical wrongs and do not perpetuate further harm and violence on Kanaka lands and communities. Enough is enough.

Yours sincerely,  
Kaiqing Su

**From:** [Trey Spiegler](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:43:35 AM

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I suppose D2 land acquisition. The only legal place to ride on that dialed. So much memories and heritage there.  
Can't take it away.



**From:** [Navin Tagore-Erwin](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:05:28 AM

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Aloha,

I urge you to oppose this measure. This ‘āina should be restored and revitalized, not sold to the military or the highest bidder. I urge you to take steps to realize your kuleana and represent Hawai‘i, not the US military. You know in your heart what is righteous. Oppose this.

Aloha ‘āina!

Mahalo nui,  
Navin Tagore  
Resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu.

**From:** [Mahealani](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote "NO" on Item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:03:52 PM

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Aloha kākou,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving the Chair authority to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. I am a 27-year-old mixed Native Hawaiian wahine, born and raised in O‘ahu Hawai‘i. Throughout my life, I have experienced direct health impacts within my community due to the desecration and taking of our ‘āina. By giving the Chair authority to negotiate contracts for an appraisal of military lands, you will be putting the health and well-being of generations of Native Hawaiian families at risk. Despite the consequences of colonialism and settler colonialism, Native Hawaiians have remained steadfast in perpetuating their culture and way of life. Our most important Hawaiian value is Aloha ‘Āina. ‘Āina, to Native Hawaiians, is not just land; it is what feeds and nourishes us. It is also an ancestor, as our genealogy stems back to Hāloa, a kalo (taro) plant. For these reasons, we love, steward, and protect our lands because it is essential to our well-being. In the Native Hawaiian worldview, ‘āina to us is everything, and if you have access to ‘āina, you have the ability to feed your ‘ohana, the space to practice ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge), and the security of knowing the next generations will be nourished physically, mentally, and spiritually. Since ‘āina is an ancestor of us, we are ‘āina. Because we are ‘āina, we translate the selling of our land to the military as exploiting ourselves, our ‘ohana, and our kūpuna ancestors. I urge everyone to see ‘āina through a Native Hawaiian lens, as Native Hawaiians are the Indigenous people of Hawai‘i and have been documented to be a thriving, robust, and healthy community pre-western contact. Please support and uplift the people of Hawai‘i by returning the lands to the rightful stewards of Hawai‘i. By supporting kānaka (Native Hawaiians) you are supporting the betterment of the world. Let the ‘āina heal. Let us all heal.

Mahalo nui,  
Māhealani Taitague-Laforga

**From:** [Scott Takara](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:38:21 AM

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I, Scott Takara, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sage Takehiro](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 5:41:58 AM

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Aloha e Board:

This testimony is in strong opposition to the recommendation in Item D.2 to authorize the chairperson to negotiate, approve, and execute a contract for appraisal services so that the military land exchange can proceed. The BLNR, DLNR, and the military are not the only stakeholders of these lands and should not have the authority to appraise, negotiate, sell, or exchange public lands without the consent of the public. The military has shown that their land retentions are harmful to our environment, they have no plans to clean up after their unexploded ordinances and other hazardous pollutants. An appraisal should only be done to assess the damage that the military has done to our lands and natural resources so that the state is informed on how to hold the military accountable to remedy those damages. A land exchange will only enable the military to destroy our natural resources and not be held accountable by the state. Please do not consider allowing the military to further damage our environment, please do not give them any more authority over our 'āina.

Mahalo,  
Sage Takehiro  
808-987-4674

**From:** [Joshua Tamayo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:00:01 PM

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I, Joshua tamayo and family, Carin (wife), Isaiah (14), beatrice (11), Thomas(5) oppose D2.

Mahalo,  
Josh

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joe Tarver](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:55:01 AM

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I, Joe Tarver, oppose D2.

Warmest regards,

Joe Tarver

**From:** [Michael Kekauoha Taylor](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:17:18 AM

---

I oppose item D.2 the underlying reasons being; the people native to these lands have time and time again been ignored and unheard in countless situations. Item D.2 is grossly neglecting and contradicting not only what the people from these lands want, but also the native people in surrounding areas.

I OPPOSE this item allowing the chair to negotiate a contract for the land because the military has had generations of time destroying, misusing, and scaring OUR lands. The military has shown in the past that they are uncaring, and unwilling to clean up the messes they make and force us to clean their messes.

As stated before and restated again I strongly oppose this item.

Mahalo,  
Mika Kekauoha Taylor

**From:** [Laulani Teale](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Item D-2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:00:47 AM

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Aloha,

I apologize for this late and brief testimony. I am not at home in Hawai'i at this moment, but would like to emphasize the following:

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a global standard for Indigenous lands. There is no consent at all here.

Similarly, DLNR should comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which upholds FPIC and has many other important provisions pertaining to the globally recognized rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to which the United States, of which the State of Hawai'i is a subsidiary, is a signatory.

There is no such thing as "fair market value" in this situation. The very simple answer should be "no."

There is no consent. There should be no consideration.

Hawai'i's status as an occupied country should be, at minimum, considered, even if a firm position is not taken on this matter. As such, basic standards such as those outlined by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) should be upheld at all times. Here is a brief ICRC information sheet on the matter: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/misc/634kfc.htm> Within the Hague conventions referenced here, further alienation and dispossession of the original inhabitants from their lands is simply not allowed, especially for purposes of militarization. Whether or not any entity conducting said occupation agrees that an occupation is taking place or not, the standard is important to uphold.

Please do not accommodate the United States military's request to further dispossess and harm these lands.

Mahalo nui,

Laulani Teale



**From:** [Kealii Thoene](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose Item D-2: Protect Hawaii's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:16:10 AM

---

I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting.

This item which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of our precious Hawaiian lands and the well-being of our communities.

It is time for the United States Army to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War II. They have had the use of the lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them in their original condition. It is long overdue for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the damage they have caused.

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead prioritize the protection of our lands and communities. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands and instead we should all fight to reduce their footprint. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mahalo,  
P. Keali'i Thoene  
Resident of Waimea, HI

--

**Keali'i Thoene**  
*Writer - Naturalist - He Hawai'i Au*  
808.699.6781



[LinkedIn](#)

**From:** [melezdad1](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:05:56 AM

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Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board.

Please vote no on item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of any lands that the U.S. military currently illegally occupies in Hawai'i. Please reference Public Law 103-150 which states "acknowledges that the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii occurred with the active participation of agents and citizens of the United States and further acknowledges that the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people over their national lands, either through the Kingdom of Hawaii or through a plebiscite or referendum" (U.S. Public Law 103-150 (107 Stat. 1510)). As such, there should be no appraisals of any land anywhere in Hawai'i by any entity that has not been granted the authority to do so by the rightful, the Kingdom of Hawai'i. We have seen ad nauseum how the State of Hawai'i and various departments of said State acts in the interests of either a financial windfall or in acquiescence to the U.S. government. It is long past time that the government act for the people. We have be made to accept the constant mismanagement of our lands by the BLNR and the out right disregard for environment by the military. This needs to stop.

Mahalo

Steven Thomas

Hui Kūlike Kākou

**From:** [Justin Tice](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:33:16 PM

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I, Justin Tice, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kobey Togikawa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of Army's request to appraise and purchase state leased lands (April 12 Agenda Item D-2)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:06:46 PM

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To the members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Army's current request for appraisal services to be conducted to purchase current state leased lands on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. I am furthermore opposed to the purchase of these lands by the US Army entirely. It is well known throughout our community that the landscape of Pōhakuloa has been egregiously mismanaged.

The 23,000 acres of state leased land at Pōhakuloa include critically endangered plant habitat and Palila Critical Habitat. These landscapes require utmost care, yet the Army consistently puts our native habitats in danger. In 2018, a fire caused by military personnel resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 acres of primarily state leased land, including protected areas of endangered plant species. This is only one example of military negligence that has threatened ecosystems within the Pōhakuloa region.

The damage caused by military activity on the state leased lands has negative impacts on our human communities, as well. Fires threaten the safety of nearby communities in Waiki'i and Waikōloa Village. Loud noise caused by firing activity is disturbing for many. The degradation of vegetation has resulted in a dustbowl situation, wherein even moderate winds carry dust downslope to communities in South Kohala and North Kona. Concerns over soil and water contamination due to metals and chemicals involved in military activity have never been fully addressed. Importantly, these lands are culturally significant. Ongoing desecration to this 'āina is painful to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and local people who wish to see these environments treated with respect.

In *Ching v. Case* (2019), it was determined that the State breached its trust duties by failing to inspect or monitor the state leased lands to ensure that the Army is complying with lease requirements to clean up debris. Pollution is an ongoing problem in this landscape, which includes munitions and unexploded ordnance. The State has yet to properly execute their duty to verify that the Army is caring for these lands as promised. That the DLNR is considering selling these lands to the Army outright suggests that the State does not care about our environment, nor about concerns continuously voiced by our community. Choosing to sidestep the ruling determined in *Ching v. Case* in favor of selling leased lands sets a dangerous precedent and effectively sanctions land mismanagement.

In closing, I implore the DLNR and other members to oppose the Army's desire to appraise these lands for the purpose of purchasing them from the State. The state leased lands must return to the State once the Army's lease expires in 2029.

**From:** [Aja Toscano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSE ITEM D-2: Protect Hawai'i's Land and Communities  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:29:14 AM

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Aloha,

I am writing to vehemently oppose item D-2 on the agenda for the upcoming BLNR meeting. This item, which pertains to the appraisal of lands leased by the United States Army, threatens the integrity of the well-being of our community and our precious Hawaiian lands.

It is time for the United States Army to honor its original agreement made at the end of World War II. They have had the use of these lands for over 80 years under the promise of returning them to their original condition. It is **LONG OVERDUE** for them to fulfill this commitment and repair the **DAMAGE** they have caused.

I urge the BLNR to reject item D-2 and instead **prioritize the protection of our lands and communities**. We must not succumb to pressures to expand the military footprint in our islands. It is time to uphold the values of stewardship and sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Aja Toscano  
Resident of Waikīki

**From:** [Ellen Tourlousse](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Land Swap for Military Training Activities at Pōhakuloa  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:48:52 AM

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Dear Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakula. This proposal, which seeks to exchange state lands crucial for training purposes, poses significant risks to both the environment and public safety.

The state lands in question are vital for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. However, it is important to note that much of the non-state land earmarked for the swap is filled with unexplored ordinances, presenting a serious hazard to both military personnel and civilians. Additionally, the proximity of these lands to the saddle road raises concerns about the safety of civilians accessing this major thoroughfare.

A closer examination reveals that the majority of firing points utilized by the military are situated on state leased lands. Should these lands be lost due to the proposed swap, the military would be forced to reposition firing points onto US lands, potentially endangering civilians passing along a major highway. This poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and must be avoided at all costs.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the implications of the mālama ‘āina findings legal case involving Aunty Max and Uncle Kū. It is evident that the military has failed to comply with the lease conditions and address the findings of this case. The proposed land swap would allow them to continue their actions without being held accountable for their misconduct, effectively bypassing the law and undermining the principles of justice and accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reject the proposed land swap for military training activities at Pōhakuloa. Instead, I implore you to prioritize the safety of civilians and the protection of our natural environment by ensuring that the military complies with all lease conditions and legal obligations. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Ellen Tourlousse Oostende, Belgium

**From:** [lee townsend](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:54:17 AM

---

Please vote “no “ on agenda item D.2 .

I oppose giving the chairperson authority to enter into a contract with the military for appraisal of any more land on Oahu.

The have enough land. They have gear and equipment to keep us safe. Please allow those lands in question to remain military free!

Lee Townsend

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Timmy Tran](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:06:31 AM

---

Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands. The land is not only significant to the ecosystem but carries immense importance for the native Hawaiian population.

With significant evidence of how militarization has ruined and devastated Hawaiian lands, I truly do believe that allowing the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands will have dire consequences on our 'Āina. We need to protect these sacred lands because of how it is important to the native Hawaiians. We cannot allow the native population to lose their land any further, and must take responsibility for our actions and make sure to protect Hawaiian land by putting it in the native Hawaiian people's care. Not military. The military will not take care of the land. They will exploit it and kill the land. Examples are Red Hill and Kaho'olawe. These two areas have been severely damaged by the military which harms the civilians too. Even to the military's own people. These damages are too severe and destroy the balance of the land and sea. It would take hundreds of years to regain the health and strength back to these areas. So it is very crucial that we don't let this mistake happen again.

I testify against land swapping or condemnation for the safety of the native Hawaiians and the ecosystem. Again, please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.



**From:** [Sam Tuhy](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:47:01 PM

---

I, Sam Tuhy, oppose D2. There has been enough land grab from the US military and they need to be more regulated to stop the constant devastation of native plant and wildlife species.

-Sam

**From:** [Nene Tui](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:06:31 AM

---

I, (Nene Tui), oppose D2.

**From:** [Tumanuvao, Anastashia \(HNLCT\)](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:04:02 AM

---

Please vote NO on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands!

Mahalo,  
Ana

**From:** [Abraham Ueda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:06:32 PM

---

I oppose D2

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Isis Usborne](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO to New Military Ownership of Lands  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:28:08 AM

---

Aloha e,

I am contacting you to lodge my opposition to the US military's attempted purchase of Pahakula, Kahuku, Kawaihoa, and Mākua lands. We need demilitarization to keep us safe, and landback to indigenous hands to allow us to survive the coming years.

Mahalo,

- Isis Usborne (they/them)

*EPT 1.5L Student at William S. Richardson School of Law*

*(808) 457-7516*

**From:** [Veronica Buonaiuto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I OPPOSE D2!!!!!!  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:43:22 AM

---

Stop this proposal immediately and don't ever think about it again!!!! This is our kids lives

From ,

Veronica Halemano

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [byron valdez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:40:37 PM

---

I, (Byron valdez), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [ilovemykeikis](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:03:28 PM

---

I, Rudy Valencia, oppose D2.

We need to keep Kahuku Motocross Park open for our kids and grandkids to use in the future. This sport is great for keikis. We need to stop taking recreational places and activities away that are safe and a way to enjoy a sport that the whole family can enjoy.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Kalei Vierra](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:49:58 AM

---

I Kalei Vierra appose D2

**From:** [jessicavignolle@gmail.com](mailto:jessicavignolle@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:03:57 PM

---

I, Jessica vignolle, oppose D2.

Aloha,

Jessica Vignolle  
808-989-5235  
jessicavignolle.com

"Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it." ~Rumi

**From:** [Lindsay Villarmia](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 10:21:37 AM

---

I, Lindsay Villarmia, oppose D2.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Lahaina Parasail](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:59:30 AM

---

I, Dave Vogt , oppose D2.

Please don't take our park!!!

**From:** [Ken Walker](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 4:29:26 AM

---

I, (Ken Walker), oppose D2. The US Military does not need this land!!, they already destroyed Red Hill

**From:** [Patrick Watson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2.  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:47:21 AM

---

Aloha,

Please vote no on agenda item D.2.

I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

In our collective experiences, it has been proven time and time again that the military are unable to manage and maintain any agreements regarding proper stewardship of Hawaiian lands once given access to and use of them.

Pearl Harbor, once known for its fertile agricultural shorelines, abundance of pearl producing oysters and ancient fishponds is now a stagnant and toxic shell of its former grandeur, routinely contaminated by Navy fuel.

Our island's freshwater aquifers have been severely compromised after decades of negligence and abuse of an antiquated fuel storage system, culminating in the 2021 Red Hill Fuel Spill incident. The Navy initially tried to deny and hide this information from the public, as their own military families were being poisoned by fuel-laden drinking water.

Makua Valley was only supposed to be occupied by U.S. military forces for 6 months during WWII, and here we are 80 years later, waiting for the Army to honor their initial pledge. In the meantime, the extended years of irresponsible bombing and training has left a dangerous and toxic legacy behind with no expectation that the valley will be properly restored and fully cleared of unexploded ordnance before the current lease window expires.

After 80 years of opportunity to correct this situation all we have seen is reasons why remediation is not practical and requests to continued abuse of this property.

Please bring an end to this discussion of lease extensions and hold the military accountable for their actions by demonstrating they have cleared the valley of unexploded ordnance before they leave once the current lease expires.

Mahalo,  
Patrick

**From:** [Sarah Week](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:25:33 AM

---

Dear Chairperson Chang and BLNR,

Please vote no on Agenda Item D.2. I oppose negotiating a contract for an appraisal of military lands. I value the lives of our troops and support their efforts to train in order to protect our country. However the land of Hawai'i is precious and is what we are asking to protect.

The State of Hawaii must maintain ownership and management of lands held in trust for the people of Hawaii, not the federal government.

Mahalo,  
Sarah Week  
Hawai'i Island

**From:** [Voidpyck](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:28:52 AM

---

I, Takeshi Weeks, oppose D2

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Kauwila Werner](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:41:36 PM

---

I, (kauwila werner), oppose D2.

This is a second home to our families a place for us to get away and enjoy nature. Please do not take this away from us.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Burton White](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:45:23 AM

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I, Burton White, oppose D2.

As an island state, land resources are important and finite.

The relationship between Native Hawaiians and their land is culturally paramount.

The history of American military stewardship of land in Hawaii has been abysmal and destructive.

These lands were stolen once, how can we think we can steal them again?

Discussion on this matter should cease.

With aloha,

Burton White

**From:** [Owana Wilcox](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to Item B2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:28:45 AM

---

Aloha,

I am writing on behalf of opposition to item B2, and selling of Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Kahuku and Kawaihoa to the US Military.

Many of our Kanaka people are still without land without homes, while kanaka are homeless, some are living in squander, and living away from their lands. I cannot support an item or a bill that will allow large landmasses being sold off to the US military, which has done damage to our islands already.

I stand against this bill.

Mahalo Nui Loa,  
Owana Wilcox

**From:** [Stephanie Weeks](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MĀKUA  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:39:57 AM

---

I'm not going to greet any of you with my aloha because you have not reciprocated that Aloha and in fact have allowed the many military members/tourism sector/transplants and corrupt officials to continue to exploit, destroy, abuse the Aloha here in Hawai'i. So with that said this email that serves as my testimony as well is to whom it may concern which IS YOU FOLKS within the BLNR department. YOU ALL REALLY NEED TO LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY! THIS IS A WRITE UP THAT'S ALL OVER FACEBOOK TO WHICH MANY HAVE AGREED:

We oppose DLNR authorizing the chairperson to determine the "fair market value" of state conservation lands leased to the US Army at Pohakuloa. This is an attempt for the Army to avoid state oversight of conservation lands by purchasing it through a land swap. They are trying to avoid having to deal with the public or do an EIS and be open to lawsuits as have already successfully been carried out against them for violating laws regarding stewardship of conservation lands. The simple fact is: THE ARMY SHOULD NOT BE OPERATING IN CONSERVATION LANDS.

It is an outrage that you would even consider that you or anyone could determine a "fair market value" of Pohakuloa conservation sacred lands. These are not to be sold or traded. These are lands that need to be reclaimed, cleaned up and restored like Kahoolawe.

Do not authorize the chairperson to carry out this boondoggle. The job of DNRL is to protect the land, not sell or trade it to be bombed and poisoned.

I imagine if you do authorize it, DLNR will be sued by different agencies. So it will just be a waste of time for everyone. Just say no. If the army wants to lease the land, they have to do an environmental impact study and go through all of the procedures of any other "stakeholder".

Mahalo,

Lynda Williams  
Hilo

Everyone shares the same sentiment. You should to! You folks really need to stop catering to outsiders/military and corrupt officials. Hawai'i is not even looking like Hawai'i anymore. Please do the right thing for once in your life.

Keke M.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Charles Wong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 6:47:15 AM

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I, Charlie Wong and Ohana oppose D2. My father started taking me to Kahuku in 1971 and have been taking my kids there weekly since 2007. kahuku motocross park has been a part of my life for over 50 years. This is our sanctuary - we strongly oppose D2 mahalo Charlie Wong

Aloha  
Make it an amazing day!  
Charlie Wong

**From:** [Bryant Woolsey](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:56:36 AM

---

I oppose D2

**From:** [Tim.Yee@Ferguson.com](mailto:Tim.Yee@Ferguson.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:00:40 AM

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Please vote no to agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

The military continues to prove time and time again that they cannot be trusted. Red Hill was a catastrophe and they still don't admit it. Water is still tainted.

Lack of disclosure at Ewa range, destroyed environments at Pohakuloa. The list goes on.

Please vote no.

**Timothy Yee**

**Area Manager**

**Ferguson Enterprises – Hawaii**

801 Moowaa Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Ph (808) 832-7441 Cel (808) 330-2374 Fx (808) 832-7409

[Tim.Yee@Ferguson.com](mailto:Tim.Yee@Ferguson.com)

**From:** [Nicole Yogi](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:05:08 AM

---

Aloha,

Please vote no on item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the Chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

My name is Nicole Kamala Yogi. My ‘ohana comes from and still lives in Waikāne, O‘ahu where the military leased the land, used it as testing and practice sites, then later condemned most of the leased lands. This is one story of cultural and historical trauma of kanaka (Hawaiian people) and ‘āina (Hawaiian lands).

“He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka. The land is the chief, the people are its servants.” We are meant to care for, nourish and protect this land. Hawai‘i has such a beautiful biodiversity that needs to be properly managed to perpetuate sustainability of this place and people. Our lives depend on it.

The military has proven on multiple occasions that they are not capable of properly managing the land to perpetuate sustainability (e.g. Red Hill and Kaho‘olawe).

Please do the right thing to protect our ‘āina (lands) and kanaka (people). Vote no on item D.2.

Mālama Pono (Take good care),  
Nicole Kamala Yogi



**From:** [Tasha-Leigh Yong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony, item D.2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:31:19 PM

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Please vote no on agenda item D.2. I oppose giving authority to the chair to negotiate a contract for an appraisal of military lands.

I am a Native Hawaiian from Waimānalo and I see and hear how the military uses the land, for military games (countless nights of gunfire that we hear from our homes) to beachfront cabins for the military only to enjoy. Most Native Hawaiians and residents of a Waimānalo do not even have the opportunity to live beachfront or near the beach. We do not get access to our own aina because it is sectioned off and leased/sold to the military. It is not right to allow the misuse of our lands again and again. It's time for the aina to be returned and restored.

Tasha-Leigh K Yong

**From:** [Matthew Yoshihara](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:16:54 AM

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I, (M.T Yoshihara ), oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

## IN OPPOSITION TO LAND SWAPS

My name is Karen Young. I am a member of Malama Makua, whose mission is to honor and protect Makua Valley. For the past 30+ yrs we have worked to end military war trainings in Makua Valley, to free the valley to heal and return to wilderness. We seek the return of the original indigenous plants, birds, animals and springs. In December 2023, after a lawsuit by Earthjustice on behalf of Malama Makua, the Army had reached 19 yrs of no live fire training in Makua, without detriment to their military capabilities.

They announced there would be no more live fire training in Makua from then on, and forever !

Now, the priority action is the removal of unexploded ordinance and any other possibly harmful military residuals in the valley. We have been told there is an area with unexploded ordinance so dangerous there is no technology yet developed that can safely dispose of it and/or clean it up. We've been told we need to wait for new technology to be developed to do this !

Which leads us to the question of why would Hawaii want any more of its precious small land mass to be contaminated with ordinance that the military cannot clear? We oppose land appraisals with the goal of land swaps for Makua Valley and all the other military occupied lands. Military use means continued contamination and /or new parcels of land being made toxic. Military use means the public is barred from that land. The military already has vast amounts of land including beach front, in Hawaii. It includes lands used exclusively for vast military housing, hotels, markets, restaurants, recreation and Tripler Army Hospital. On Oahu alone, this includes: Ft. Debussy, Bellows, Hickam, Makapuu, Poka'i Bay Army Rec Center, Waialua, Lualualei, Ft. Weaver and Pearl Harbor.

Malama Makua opposes any further military land expansion including land swaps!

Mahalo,

Karen Young  
Malama Makua

**From:** [Jessie Zweibel](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:53:50 PM

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I, Jessie Zweibel, oppose D2.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kaiakea Dwight](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D2  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:58:59 AM

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I, (kea Dwight ), oppose D2.

Do not sell the land to the military or we will never be allowed back to our own land that we have been on for years

Sent from my iPhone