

From: [Aiko Seffinger, OD, RYT-500](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REJECT the EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:55:57 AM

Please REJECT the EIS on Pohakuloa. The EIS is grossly incomplete. The military has been bombing and shelling Pohakuloa for 80 years but has not completed a cultural and historic study of the entire area, and has been grossly negligent to the people of Hawai'i. The military has not responded to Hawaii County resolutions 639-08 and 701-08 passed 17 years ago about 8 actions the county called for, including a complete halt to all live-fire and any activities that create dust until there is an assessment and clean up of the Depleted Uranium already present.

Bombing is Desecration! Polluting the air, land, and water with military toxins is Desecration! The health of the air, land and water, is the health of all life! No new lease, land swap, or sale of Hawaiian lands for continued Military Desecration!

Mahalo nui loa,

Dr. Aiko

From: [Makalapua Alencastre](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony for Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:03:38 PM

Aloha kākou e nā lāla o ke Ke'ena Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and many of Hawai'i's most endangered species. Since the 1940s, the U.S. Army has been allowed to lease Pōhakuloa. Throughout this time, they have not served as a proper steward of this land nor have they demonstrated their capacity or will to continue with essential stewardship activities.

The EIS fails to meaningfully address numerous concerns. Past and current behavior has resulted in severe and detrimental impacts to Pōhakuloa. For example, the Army's actions resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres! As we know, wildfires are an ongoing threat on Hawai'i island- the frequency and types of military training are potential ignition sources, all of which has been documented to increase fire frequency. Pōhakuloa's ecosystems, designated as the rarest in the world, are critical habitats for rare and endangered native flora and fauna under constant threat of destruction. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- The Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis is inadequate.
- Planning for mitigation of impacts to cultural and natural resources is severely lacking.
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

- and yet pose a
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation.

The approval of the EIS would ultimately conflict with the BLNR's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina

I strongly urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's EIS for Pōhakuloa. The best path forward is to require the Army to commit to a timeline to vacate these lands once restoration of all damages done. This includes requiring an immediate cessation of all live-fire activities to begin the process of healing and restoration.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Makalapua Alencastre
Keauhou, Ka'ū, Hawai'i

From: [Sonia Avasthi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: We Demand BLNR to Reject the U.S. Army's Pōhakuloa FEIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:14:43 AM

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am an employee of the State of Hawaii with the Department of Education. I am writing to urge you to **reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)** submitted by the U.S. Army in support of its proposal to continue occupying 22,750 acres of public trust lands at the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on Hawai'i Island.

This FEIS **fails to meet the basic requirements of Hawai'i's environmental review laws** and does not provide the public or this Board with the information needed to make an informed, lawful decision. Rather than address valid concerns raised during the draft process, the Army's final document raises more red flags, avoids key questions, and withholds critical data.

Key issues that warrant immediate rejection include:

- **Confirmed toxic contamination** of state lands from lead, arsenic, petroleum compounds, and other munitions constituents—**with no clear plan or commitment for cleanup.**
- A failure to conduct **comprehensive soil and groundwater testing**, despite known risks of contamination spreading through highly permeable soils and shallow aquifers.
- **Lack of transparency**, as the Army refuses to disclose Standard Operating Procedures it claims limit contamination.
- **Failure to assess human health risks**, especially for nearby communities and cultural practitioners with potential exposure to contaminated air, soil, and water.
- **No cumulative impact analysis** of the full 132,000-acre PTA operation, which artificially narrows the scope of environmental review.
- **Acknowledged ongoing fire risks**, with over 1,000 fires caused by military activities since 1975, threatening fragile species like the Palila.
- **Incomplete greenhouse gas data**, while making unsupported claims about climate impacts.

This FEIS does **not meet the legal or ethical standards** for protecting Hawai'i's lands, waters, ecosystems, or communities. It would be irresponsible for the Board to accept a document that sidesteps so many critical issues and puts future generations at risk.

I ask you to **reject this FEIS** and require the Army to conduct a full and lawful environmental review, with transparent data, community accountability, and a

credible cleanup and mitigation plan.

Sincerely,

Sonia Avasthi

May 6, 2025

Makawao, Hawaii (Island of Maui)

Maui for Palestine

sonia.avasthi@gmail.com

From: [Jazzmin Jacobs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject the current Army EIS for Pōhakuloa!
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:06:26 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS. The U.S. military simply cannot be trusted to protect our health and our 'āina, as evidenced most recently by the Navy Red Hill debacle on Oahu.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

The Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of a shocking 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Jazzmin Awa
Holualoa

From: [Kalani Baer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony submission
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:22:59 PM

Hi,

My name is Kalani Baer. I would like to submit written testimony regarding the U.S Army's lease on Pohakuloa. I am a Hawai'i Island resident and native Hawaiian.

I oppose the continuation of this lease with the US Army. I've studied and worked in conservation for over 10 years. I'm still a young person in my 30s. I'm not at the end of my career or life. I'm just beginning it as an adult and I don't want to raise a family while our island gets bombed. We experience droughts and the risk of fire is increasing every year to decade. It's irresponsible and at best, tone deaf to keep leasing 'āina to a US department that seems to care little for the residents of Hawaii and the health of the land.

Mahalo for your time in reading this,
Kalani

From: [Melissa Barker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EIS for Pohakuloa Training Area
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:05:37 AM

Honorable Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Pōhakuloa Training Area**, and to **urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS**.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a **wahi pana**, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable **Native Hawaiian cultural sites** and some of Hawai'i's most **endangered species**. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

I respectfully ask that the members of the land board respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by **rejecting the Army's FEIS** for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

From: [Lisa Barnard](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:14:39 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakula Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is a home to Native Hawai'ian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

The army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. The use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area also raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity or aloha 'aina. The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on the following grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS conflict with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa.

Sincerely,
Lisa Barnard
Volcano, Hawai'i

Stop the Desecration of Pōhakuloa

MEI 04, 2025

Aloha Land Board Members,

I am writing with unwavering opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area and to demand that the Board of Land and Natural Resources reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Let me be absolutely clear: Pōhakuloa is a wahi pana—a sacred and storied place. It is not just land on a map; it is home to Native Hawaiian cultural sites and to some of Hawai'i's most endangered and irreplaceable species. The Army has repeatedly shown that it is neither willing nor capable of fulfilling even the most basic responsibilities of stewardship. Trusting them with another 65 years would be reckless, harmful, and an outright betrayal of the State's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina.

The Army has already caused irreparable damage. Over 19,000 acres have burned under their watch—much of it designated critical habitat. Toxic contamination, including depleted uranium, continues to poison the land, air, and water, threatening the health of our communities and ecosystems. These are not small mistakes—they are catastrophic failures with long-term consequences. And yet, the FEIS fails to adequately address or account for any of it.

Let's be honest: military use of this land is incompatible with its conservation designation. There is no version of live-fire training, bombing, or weapons testing that can co-exist with endangered species, cultural preservation, and the healing of this 'āina. If this EIS is approved, it will set a dangerous precedent that military convenience outweighs cultural heritage, public health, and environmental protection.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has made it abundantly clear—the State has the highest duty to care for trust lands. You are not just administrators—you are trustees. And in *Kahaulelio v. DLNR* (2019), the Court found that the State had already breached this duty when it failed to oversee the Army's use of Pōhakuloa. Do not repeat the same failure.

I urge the BLNR to show true leadership and courage by standing with the people of Hawai'i. Reject the Army's FEIS. Stop the desecration. Begin the healing. The future of Pōhakuloa depends on your decision.

Ua lehulehu a manomano ka 'ikena a ka Hawai'i.

The wisdom of the Hawaiian people is vast and plentiful. Listen to us.

With urgency and aloha,

Ekela Benford

Malo e lelei,

My name is Kalavi Blanchard I was born in Kailua and raised in Kaaawa, Oahu.

I'm Tongan French but my children and wife are Native Hawaiian and I reject the US Army's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

As a spouse, father of children that are Native Hawaiian I am deeply concerned about the cultural and environmental risks posed by the Army's proposed actions. The current Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is wholly inadequate—especially considering this is a known conservation district, home to endangered species that deserve full protection. Yet the Army continues to fall short in its responsibility to address these critical issues.

The EIS defers necessary environmental cleanup and fails to provide a clear, transparent plan for managing contamination. Cultural impacts are not meaningfully addressed, and the community has received only superficial and insufficient responses.

Moreover, the Army has not demonstrated responsible stewardship of the lands it currently occupies throughout Hawai'i. From Haleakalā to Red Hill, from Mākua Valley to the devastating legacy on Kaho'olawe, the U.S. military has repeatedly harmed Hawai'i's environment and sacred spaces.

As Hawai'i continues to recover from the Maui wildfires, the Army's EIS remains alarmingly vague and inadequate regarding wildfire risk and suppression efforts. This poses serious long-term threats to Hawai'i islands' aquifers, endangered plants and animals, and overall air and water quality. The EIS fails to account for cumulative impacts and continues to downplay the real consequences of military activity.

Given this history and the present risks, the Army's proposed alternatives in Hawai'i should not be considered. The land, culture, and future of Hawaiians deserve better stewardship and full accountability.

I respectfully urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and to truly listen to the voices of the people. This decision is critical to protecting the lands, ecosystems, and communities of Hawai'i—both for those who are here today and for future generations.

Malo,

Kalavi Blanchard

From: [Andrew Boyle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject the Army's EIS for the Pōhakuloa Training Area - Written Testimony
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:02:15 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Pōhakuloa Training Area**, and to **urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS**.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a **wahi pana**, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable **Native Hawaiian cultural sites** and some of Hawai'i's most **endangered species**. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the **burning of nearly 20,000 acres**, including designated **critical habitat** for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about **environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation** of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or **aloha 'āina**. Enough is enough.

The FEIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by **rejecting the Army's FEIS** for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Andrew James Boyle

From: [laurel brier](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Pohakuloa EIS .
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:19:53 AM

Unacceptable.

The military's stewardship of the 'āina in Hawaii has been unacceptable. We are in an environmental crisis worldwide and as Land Board members we trust your job is to protect the 'āina. The military has practically unrestricted funds and resources and still they have not shown themselves to be capable, nor interested, in preserving the precious land they have been allowed to lease at Pōhakuloa Training Area. This is sacred land with a history for the people of Hawaii and the U.S. Army has burned thousands of acres including critical habitat. With their on going bombing and presence of depleted uranium there are long held concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both land and water. The EIS is totally inadequate. It's time to take back Pōhakuloa and restore it for the people, the culture, the native species.

Let's have a space to practice peace and preservation.

The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

Laurel Brier
Kaua'i Women's Caucus

From: [Jay](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Opposing Agenda Item Regarding Final EIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area – May 9, 2025
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:49:04 PM

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jaylene Carela, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, holding spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka 'Ōiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina—bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, sparking wildfires, and violating the terms of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964.

The Final EIS is grossly dishonest. It fails to fully acknowledge decades of environmental destruction, cultural harm, and community opposition. It assumes future compliance without reckoning with the military's historical neglect and repeated disregard for both state law and the county resolutions passed in 2008 demanding a halt to live fire and cleanup of existing contamination.

Will Caron

Testimony in Opposition

RE: U.S. Army proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area

Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Aloha e Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), and to urge the land board to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

PTA is located on Hawaiian Kingdom government and crown lands—known as “ceded lands”—that encompass 133,000 acres—an area more than four times larger than Kaho'olawe. These lands are considered sacred due to their location between the sacred mountains Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Hualālai. The area also features cultural and archaeological sites, including burial sites, and is home to endangered species.

In *Kahaulelio v. DLNR*, 2019, the Hawai'i Supreme Court found that the State of Hawai'i had breached its constitutional trust duties by failing to reasonably monitor and inspect trust lands at Pōhakuloa leased to the U.S. Army; to ensure compliance with cleanup and safety provisions in the lease; to take timely action after learning of possible contamination or violations; and to document its efforts and provide transparency to the public.

The court found that the state has “the highest duty to preserve and maintain the trust lands”—a duty rooted in the constitutional obligation to mālama 'āina, to care for the land. The court also emphasized that the state's trustee obligations exist even without proven lease violations, noting the duty is proactive and preventative.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army has caused significant, long-term damage to the environmental and cultural resources at Pōhakuloa, including depleted uranium contamination, the proliferation of unexploded ordnances, and the desecration of sacred sites. The U.S. Army's actions at PTA have resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna.

The ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water. The presence of depleted uranium in the soil at Pōhakuloa is consistently churned up and aerosolized during live fire exercises and blown across the island. Exposure to depleted uranium is linked to cancer and many other negative health impacts.

These actions have created significant barriers to cultural access for Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practitioners, violating their constitutional rights as well.

The Final EIS does not provide a sufficient plan for mitigating these environmental and cultural impacts. Given the military's failed track record of cleaning up military debris and pollution, caring for the environment at Pōhakuloa, and preserving access to its cultural sites, it is completely unrealistic to expect the military to comply with the requirements of a conservation district.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and its Final EIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

The Final EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

The retention of these public trust lands beyond the current 65 year lease may substantially inhibit the Board of Land and Natural Resources from fulfilling its fiduciary obligation to ensure the maximization of benefits to Native Hawaiians and public beneficiaries.

Long-term leasing of public trust lands to any party creates a sense of entitlement that can result in the alienation of public lands, including the so-called "ceded" lands to which Native Hawaiians have unrelinquished claims.

I urge the members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to uphold the state's duty to respect, preserve, care for and hold in public trust for future generations the land, resources and environment of Hawai'i. Reject the Army's Final EIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area.

Furthermore, all unexploded ordnances must be removed and all other environmental contamination and degradation must be remediated by the U.S. Army immediately.

Once the Army has thoroughly and fully cleaned up its contamination of Pōhakuloa, it will then be time to return these lands to the people of Hawai'i so that we can begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Will Caron
Kahalu'u, O'ahu

From: [Chris Carte](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject Army's EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:16:29 PM

Please listen to the voices of the community. Reject the Army's final environmental impact statement in pōhakulua. Enough is enough! Stand up to the military and protect the 'āina of these islands!! I speak on behalf of all residents who no longer wish to see live ordinances fired on the lands. Sincerely,

Concerned and frustrated resident.

From: [Lise Michelle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for BLNR to REJECT the Army's EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:45:26 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina.

We live on an island, which comes with an innate responsibility for all to show care and respect to the natural resources that nourish us and to the stories of place that tell us about the land and how to care for it and how to care for each other, as people of place, in turn. By disregarding the nature of living on an island, with finite resources, and disregarding the stories of place and the collective responsibility to steward will ensure that we fail not only as island people, but also as a human race, affecting the ability to continue having a livable place for future generations.

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Lise Michelle Suguitan Childers
Honolulu, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

From: [Seb Choe](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:57:10 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Pōhakuloa Training Area**, and to **urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS**.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a **wahi pana**, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable **Native Hawaiian cultural sites** and some of Hawai'i's most **endangered species**. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the **burning of nearly 20,000 acres**, including designated **critical habitat** for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about **environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation** of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or **aloha 'āina**. Enough is enough.

The FEIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by **rejecting the Army's FEIS** for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Seb Choe
Kailua Kona, Moku o Keawe



May 5, 2025

Chairperson Dawn Chang and Members of the Board
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA)

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i's Military Affairs Council (MAC), we respectfully urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to carefully review and accept the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

PTA is an irreplaceable resource that enables safe, realistic training for Hawai'i-based service members—training that is vital to national defense, disaster response, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. The Army's FEIS reflects a sincere effort to balance military readiness with environmental stewardship and cultural sensitivity. We are confident the Army is working in good faith to identify solutions that preserve lands of cultural and agricultural significance while maintaining vital training capabilities.

As military veterans and members of Hawai'i's defense and business community, we personally understand that preparedness and training are not theoretical concepts. These are daily imperatives that ensure our communities, and our nation are ready for whatever challenges may come.

As Hawai'i residents, we also understand and share the values and concerns of local families. We have seen firsthand the thoughtful planning, collaboration, and care the Army brings to its work across the state, from preservation of cultural sites to investment in environmental conservation and community engagement.

Accepting the FEIS is a meaningful step toward continuing this shared mission—one that upholds both the readiness of our armed forces and our commitment to cultural and environmental responsibility.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven W. Colón', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven W. Colón, Chair
Hawai'i Military Affairs Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Chung', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Chung, Vice President
Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i

From: [Liz Collins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] pohakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:59:58 AM

Aloha,

I am a concerned citizen and mother writing to you with a request that you reject any environmental impact statement for US army operations/occupation at Pohakuloa. For over 70 years, there has been immeasurable destruction (barely touched on by these environmental impact statements, that I have looked over) on a mountain that is widely known to be sacred to the Hawaiian people. This area is located on the top of all of the island's surrounding Ahupua'a/watersheds.... Everything done on this mountain is going downstream into all of the communities below. Not only is it unsafe for the people who call this place home, it is also posing a threat to all of the fragile ecosystems; with so many species already threatened or extinct, we cannot allow needless damage to be done any more! Once a species is lost, we cannot get it back. The water on this island has certainly been affected by any toxins released into our environment, which is definitely happening in the army training areas. We want our 'Ohana to be able to stay healthy and drink clean water... As a graduate of UH Mānoa, who majored in cultural and environmental anthropology, I find it truly disturbing that a government does not listen to its people!!! Cultural determination is very much something that the people of Hawai'i have been working to practice. Listen to them. They are speaking very clearly: Mālama 'āina, today and forever.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ann Collins

(Resident of Kealia, Ho'okena—
on Moku o Keawe)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Christian Cravalho](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Testimony: Protect Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:12:28 AM

Aloha Land Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water. These are continuous problems that are making a major impact that will not go away quickly.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Christian Cravalho Ewa Beach, Oahu

From: [Beth de Young 2](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa Support
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:26:18 PM

Elizabeth deYoung
401 Wainaku Street,
Hilo, Hi 96720
bethdeyoung@gmail.com
8087479531

May 5, 2025

Dawn Chang
Chairperson
BLNR

Subject: Continue Support of Pōhakuloa Training Area

Dear Chairperson Chang,

My strong support for the Army's continued use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) should be retained on Hawai'i Island. An advocate for responsible land management, PTA contributes to cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship. These resources are important during these difficult times.

Military Training and National Security: PTA allows our armed forces to conduct essential training exercises, ensuring our military readiness and preparedness.^[i] It also allows our Hawaii National Guard to train to be prepared to respond to natural disasters or hazardous events that impact the people of the State of Hawaii. Retaining this land is vital for maintaining our national security and for the safety of the people of Hawaii.

Cultural Resources Management: PTA's rich cultural heritage deserves protection, and the Army's commitment to compliance and sustainability through its Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans is laudable.^[ii] USAG-PTA's Cultural Resources team conducts archaeological surveys of sites^[iii] and monitor more than 35 archaeological sites for effects from troops and hoofed mammals, or ungulates, such as pigs and goats. The Cultural Resources team also preserves and ensures the protection of cultural shrines, habitation caves, burial sites, and pictographs that date as far back as the 15th century.^[iv]

Environmental Stewardship: PTA's 23,000 acres are home to diverse ecosystems, and the Army's efforts to minimize adverse environmental impacts are crucial for future generations. In 2023, PTA was selected as one of 13 Military installations across the entire Department of Defense for the 2023 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge. This 2.6-million-dollar project (1.3 provided by REPI funds and 1.3 million in partner contributions^[v]) was for the Nāpu'u Natural Resource Protection to mitigate rare plant impacts at PTA.^[vi]

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the Army's continued presence at Pōhakuloa Training Area. The Army's continuing partnership with the State of Hawaii in balancing military training,

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Beth deYoung

Hilo, Hawaii

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Pōhakuloa Training Area**, and to **urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS**.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a **wahi pana**, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable **Native Hawaiian cultural sites** and some of Hawai'i's most **endangered species**. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the **burning of nearly 20,000 acres**, including designated **critical habitat** for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about **environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation** of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or **aloha 'āina**. Enough is enough.

The FEIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by **rejecting the Army's FEIS** for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma
Kaka'ako, Honolulu

Thank you.

Thomas (he, him)

May you be pulled towards the light, yet familiar with the darkness.

I live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples of Vancouver, and while in Honolulu on the stolen and unceded lands of The Hawaiian Kingdom and the Kanaka Maoli people. I acknowledge how I have benefitted and continue to benefit from colonial practices. I actively work toward truth, reconciliation and decolonization through a lifelong commitment of unlearning attitudes and acts of oppression, and I'm committed to cultivating respectful and reciprocal relationships with these lands and their ancestral stewards.

Purchase my book: Little Fag: A Story of Self-Acceptance and Healing

Amazon US: <https://amzn.to/4boWSXz>

Amazon Canada: <https://amzn.to/3HWIbx2>

StoryTime With Thomas (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Zu9PTWm_uwPRflpbdKfBg

Conversations With Thomas (my podcast):

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/conversations-with-thomas/id1707605293?i=1000628045751>

Facebook: facebook.com/thomaskevindolan

Website: thomaskevindolan.com

Instagram: [@thomaskevindolan](https://instagram.com/@thomaskevindolan)

From: [Thalia Fajans](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa - reject the army's EIS - item D1
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:33:06 PM

Dear Board -

Mālama 'āina!

Stop the desecration of Pōhakuloa, please.

Thalia Fajans
78-7231 Pu'upele Rd
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

May 6, 2025

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Date: May 9, 2025

Time: 9:00am

Place: DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.

Via Zoom

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in STRONG OPPOSITION to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease for the following reasons:

1. Contamination from Military Activities

- **Unexploded ordnance (UXO):** Leftover munitions that pose risks to people and wildlife.
- **Soil and water contamination:** From fuels, solvents (like TCE), heavy metals, and even depleted uranium (e.g., at Pōhakuloa).
- **Air pollution and ecosystem disruption:** From military exercises, bombing ranges, and infrastructure.

Failure to Follow Environmental Laws

- **Non-compliance with NEPA, CERCLA, RCRA, and the Clean Water/Clean Air Acts.**
- The military has in many cases:
 - Delayed required Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).
 - Failed to clean up Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
 - Left contamination unaddressed for decades, despite community outcry.

Disrespect of Indigenous Land and Rights

- Military use of Native lands (e.g., Hawaiian sacred sites) without proper consultation.
- Desecration and destruction of culturally significant places.
- Minimal engagement with Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous communities.

2. Enforcement of Environmental Laws

- Use federal laws like:
 - **CERCLA (Superfund)** for cleanup of contaminated sites.
 - **RCRA** for hazardous waste management.
 - **NEPA** for requiring full environmental review.
- Pressure the Army and Department of Defense (DoD) to comply via lawsuits or regulatory action.

B. Community & Legal Advocacy

- **Community mobilization** around environmental justice.
- **FOIA requests** to access Army records and environmental assessments.
- **Citizen suits** under environmental laws (e.g., Clean Water Act).
- Involvement of environmental NGOs and legal aid organizations.

C. Government Oversight & Political Action

- Involve Congress (especially committees overseeing the military and environment).
- Request GAO investigations or Inspector General audits.
- Push for legislation requiring stronger cleanup timelines or funding for restoration.

D. Restoration & Remediation Plans

- Immediate hazard mitigation (UXO removal, soil excavation).
- Long-term monitoring and cleanup.
- Indigenous-led restoration and stewardship programs (e.g., biocultural restoration).

E. Cultural & Legal Recognition

- Recognition of **Native Hawaiian customary rights** under state and federal law.
- **Return of lands** not needed for military purposes.
- Inclusion of Native voices in all environmental decisions.

3. The Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Pōhakuloa Training Area is legally and culturally insufficient.

Inadequate Cultural and Historical Impact Analysis

- The FEIS **fails to fully identify, document, or evaluate** traditional cultural properties (TCPs), mo'okū'auhau (genealogical), or historical uses of the area by Native Hawaiians.

- It **lacks meaningful consultation** with cultural practitioners and lineal descendants.
- **Oral histories and ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge)** are underrepresented or ignored.

Failure to Address or Mitigate Impacts to:

- **Burial Sites (iwi kūpuna):** No clear plan to identify, avoid, or protect known or unknown burials.
- **Heiau and Sacred Sites:** Impacts to spiritual sites are downplayed or deemed insignificant.
- **Sacred Landscapes:** The entire landscape of Pōhakuloa is a living cultural and spiritual environment, not just scattered sites

4. Legal Grounds for Challenge

Under NEPA:

- The Army is **required to take a "hard look"** at the cultural and environmental impacts. If they fail to do so, the FEIS can be challenged in federal court.
- The failure to **consult meaningfully with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners** violates procedural fairness and NEPA’s purpose of informed, participatory decision-making.

Under NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act):

- **Section 106** requires federal agencies to **identify historic properties** and **consult with Native Hawaiian Organizations** before taking actions that may affect them.
- The Army likely failed to meet this duty if sacred sites and iwi kūpuna are at risk without proper assessment or protection.

Under Hawai‘i State Law (HRS §6E):

- The state’s historic preservation law protects burial sites and traditional cultural places.
- The FEIS cannot override state obligations to protect these places.

5. Summary

Before 1893:

- Lands in Pōhakuloa were held as **Crown Lands** (the personal holdings of the reigning monarch) and **Government Lands** (for the benefit of the Lāhui — the people).
- These lands were not “private” in the Western sense — they were held **in trust for the Hawaiian people**.

1893 Overthrow & 1898 Annexation:

- After the illegal overthrow of Queen Lili‘uokalani, the *Republic of Hawai‘i* claimed these lands and then transferred them to the U.S. after annexation in 1898 — **without the consent of the Hawaiian people**.

Post-Statehood (1959):

- These lands were passed to the **State of Hawai‘i** under the **Admissions Act**, with the mandate that they be held in **trust** for five public purposes — including for Native Hawaiians under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

6. Current Legal Status

Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA)

- Approximately **133,000 acres** used by the U.S. Army.
- **84,000 acres** of that (Kea‘āmu parcel) is **leased** from the State of Hawai‘i.
 - That lease began in **1964** for **\$1 total rent**, for 65 years — **set to expire in 2029**.
- The rest was **ceded to the U.S. from the so-called annexation** or acquired through other transfers.

7. Major Legal & Ethical Issues

- These lands were **never lawfully ceded** by the Hawaiian Kingdom or its people.
- The lands were **meant to benefit Native Hawaiians** but have instead been used for military bombing, weapons testing, and environmental damage.
- The lease contains **no requirement to clean up**, and the **Army has a poor record of cultural site protection**.

8. Bottom Line:

Pōhakuloa was **not taken by the Army directly**, but rather:

- Was **Crown/Government land** that was illegally seized,
- Then misused by the U.S. government and later leased by the State of Hawai‘i to the Army, against the original purpose of those lands.

9. Ching v. Case, 145 Haw. 148 (2019)

Hawai‘i Supreme Court Decision

Parties:

- **Plaintiffs:** Clarence Ching and Mary Maxine Kahaulelio (Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners).
- **Defendant:** Governor David Ige (originally Neil Abercrombie) and the State of Hawai‘i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The Hawai‘i Supreme Court ruled in favor of Ching and Kahaulelio:

- The Court held that the State cannot remain passive or uninvolved while military activities result in environmental degradation or damage to sacred lands. The lease granted to the Army in 1964 requires that the premises be “maintained and preserved in good order and condition.” The State has a legal obligation to ensure the Army meets that duty and that the land is not left contaminated or desecrated.
- Furthermore, this duty includes protection of iwi kūpuna (ancestral remains), cultural and historic sites, and sacred landscapes. The failure of the Army to adequately assess and mitigate impacts to these resources, along with the State’s inaction, is inconsistent with the public trust obligations recognized in *Ching v. Case*.
- I respectfully request that this Court:
 - Recognize the ongoing legal obligation to ensure environmental and cultural protection at Pōhakuloa;
 - Compel enforcement of cleanup, monitoring, and preservation duties under the lease and under Hawai‘i constitutional law;
 - And ensure that no further military use, lease renewal, or expansion be approved without full cultural review, cleanup, and accountability in accordance with *Ching v. Case*.

Therefore, I humbly ask the Board to OPPOSE this Final Environmental Impact U.S. Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the Army’s lease.

Mahalo,

_____/s/____

Cindy Freitas

From: [Elizabeth Garbe](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Opposing Agenda Item Regarding Final EIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area – May 9, 2025
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:24:44 AM

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Elizabeth Garbe, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, holding spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka 'Ōiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina—bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, sparking wildfires, and violating the terms of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964.

The Final EIS is grossly dishonest. It fails to fully acknowledge decades of environmental destruction, cultural harm, and community opposition. It assumes future compliance without reckoning with the military's historical neglect and repeated disregard for both state law and the county resolutions passed in 2008 demanding a halt to live fire and cleanup of existing contamination.

The courts have already ruled that the State has failed to care for this land. Approving this EIS and renewing the lease without proper accountability would not only violate your trust responsibilities, it would enable further

desecration of a place that should never have been used for war training in the first place.

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

Please stand for the 'āina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Elizabeth Garbe

She/Her
Davis, CA

From: [Makayla Garibaldi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:16:46 PM

Aloha, My name is Makayla and I am A 13 year old student on 'Oahu going to A school called Ka waihona. Today I am here to talk about how I don't want the lease to be renewed for pohakuloa or any other US base on our 'Āina because I feel as A Hawaiian we have the right to have a say in this and what happens next. As Teenagers you may not find it serious on what we are saying but just because we're young doesn't mean our opinions are any less important. I feel it's not fair how they get paid only \$1 and we can barely live here. I feel there are more Hawaiians leaving than there are staying, I've watched at least half my family members or even people at my school have to move because they couldn't afford to live here on the island. From your perspective it might feel fine and you guys might be having fun with this but also think about us and how much it changed our land and also people. There are more hawaiian people on the side of the road than there are at home. We Malama our 'Āina more than you guys do and as we grow up we are gonna have to Ho'omau because of all the mistakes you guys make. Just think whats the best not just for you but also us.

From: [Kieran Gibson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa Testimony May 9th, 2025
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:43:30 PM

Kieran Wiese Gibson
(808) 494-7775
44-2820 Kalopa Mauka Rd.
Honokaa Hi, 96727

Aloha e Board of Land and Natural Resources,

O wau ‘o Kieran. I was raised my entire life on the slopes of Mauna Kea and frequented saddle road, camping, hunting, hiking, and perpetuating cultural practices in the areas surrounding Pōhakuloa Training Area.

The life in the land of Pōhakuloa is vibrant and vivid. Critically endangered species such a Palila and ‘Oha Wai call these lands their home. I encouraged any one of this board to take a walk through these lands and pay attention to the water, wind, animals, and plants surrounding you. This isn't just a feeling some of us have, as of 2022 the American Bird Conservancy estimated to be 678 remaining Palila birds remains in the wild, most of which call Pōhakuloa their home. Some of the last remaining native forests surround this area with countless endangered species. It is well know in several conservation circles that Hawai‘i is considered *"the extinction capital of the world"*. There is a reason for this... The continued destruction and profit oriented state departments have rendered our lands pillaged, stripped, outcompeted, and cleared for centuries. Is this the end of our native ecosystem? If nothing is changed about how we are approached our islands, this will be the end of them as we know it. All it takes is a drive by Pōhakuloa Training Area to witness some of the overwhelming destruction that has taken place in the area. Sheep run free, demolishing Māmane, fountain grass slowing taking its place, air ports, runways, bunkers, smoke, light and sound pollution, bombs, diesel, and more pollute the land and water. Have you ever worked on piece of machinery? Fired a gun? Built a house? Driven a tank through endangered forest? Shot depleted uranium rounds into the earth? All of these actions do one thousand fold every week for the past seventy something years. This is what the lands of Pōhakuloa have been polluted by... and all of this just so happens to be sitting on the largest aquifer of Hawai‘i island. Where does that water go? It goes to us, the ocean, the animals, and crops, and everything around us we call home. It is sad that we have to submit testimony to convince the state that it is bad to bomb and threaten sacred and critically endangered grounds.

Furthermore, Pōhakuloa is considered ‘Wao Akua’, or the realm of the gods, an entire ecological sector of the Hawaiian people for more than a thousand years. When in Wao Akua one is required to adhere to the proper protocols of place, and remain conscious of our place, as kānaka, in the realm of the gods. Simply put Pōhakuloa is a sacred place and eligible to be designated a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), part of the National Parks Service (NPS). This eligibility is based on Pōhakuloa’s associations with the cultural practices,

traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of living community.

Please let me know any questions and I urge you, as protectors of land and natural resources, to do your job. Stand for the little culture, sacred grounds, species, and water we have left.

Mālama pono and mahalo nā akua,

Kieran Wiese Gibson

(808) 494-7775

44-2820 Kalopa Mauka Rd.

Honokaa Hi, 96727

May 4, 2025

RE: Item D1 on the agenda for the May 9, 2025 meeting of the BLNR. Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area, - Island of Hawai‘i, Tax Map Keys (TMKs) (3): 4-4-015:008; 4-4-016:005; and 7-1-004:007

Please reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area

Aloha Land Board Members:

I write to ask you to reject the U.S. Army’s proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area.

The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a pono and responsible steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address critical concerns about its treatment of Pōhakuloa to date.

For example, the Army’s actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water. Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha ‘āina.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR’s constitutional duties, including the duty to mālama i ka ‘āina. As affirmed by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court in *Kahaulelio v. DLNR* (2019), “*the State has ‘the highest duty to preserve and maintain the trust lands’ — a duty rooted in the constitutional obligation to mālama ‘āina, to care for the land.*” The Court emphasized that the State’s trustee obligations exist even without proven lease violations, noting the duty is proactive and preventative. Furthermore, the Court found that the State of Hawai‘i had breached its constitutional

trust duties by failing to: reasonably monitor and inspect trust lands at Pōhakuloa leased to the U.S. military; ensure compliance with cleanup and safety provisions in the lease; take timely action after learning of possible contamination or violations; and document its efforts and provide transparency to the public. We cannot allow this to ever happen again.

The presence of depleted uranium in the soil at Pōhakuloa is consistently churned up and aerosolized during live fire exercises and blown across the island. Exposure to depleted uranium is linked to cancer and many other negative health impacts.

Ongoing military use is not compatible with the purposes of a conservation district designation. Ongoing live-fire and bombing in the area threaten the native flora, fauna and cultural resources of the area, including some of Hawaii's most endangered species. The EIS does not provide specific or adequate mitigation measures to prevent impacts to the critical habitat or culturally significant sites.

I urge you, honorable members of the board, to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return control of these lands to Hawai'i and begin a meaningful process of healing and restoration.

Me ka 'o ia 'i'o,

Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua
Waimānalo, O'ahu
Professor of Political Science

From: haililani1@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STAND FOR MAUNA KEA
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:07:50 PM

I am totally against the renewal of state lands by the U.S. Government. The Trump administration has been stopping funding for our state education, environmental Hawaiian cultural concerns. Everything in Hawaii is affected by those ridiculous tariffs besides they leasing our lands for a dollar a year . It's time to reduce the government impact by freeing ourselves from their control. The Pohakuloa Training Area sits on one of the state's biggest water aquifers and just the fact that the US military is one the biggest polluters around if reason enough to deny them a renewal.

ALOHA

I am writing to urge the BLNR to reject the Army's EIS for Pōhakuloa. As you all well know this land is Wahi Pana or SACRED, with many cultural areas and artifacts, endangered species - plants and animals. The Army have been very poor stewards of this land. Your duty as BLNR is to PROTECT and RESTORE our lands and I urge you to do so. Do not sell out the INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THIS LAND.

Nancy Cross- Hall

I am mother and grandmother to native Hawai'ian children

From: [Leimana Hassett](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP THE BOMBING OF PŌHAKULOA
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:48:38 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and

the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Leimana Hassett
Lahaina, Maui

From: [Asia Helfrich](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pohakuloa Testimony
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:14:43 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

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Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and

the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Asia Au Helfrich
Kea'au, Big Island

From: [Hannah Hinrichs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Opposing Agenda Item Regarding Final EIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area – May 9, 2025
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:45:51 PM

Dear members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

My name is Hannah Hinrichs, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, holding spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka 'Ōiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina—bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, sparking wildfires, and violating the terms of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964.

The Final EIS is grossly dishonest. It fails to fully acknowledge decades of environmental destruction, cultural harm, and community opposition. It assumes future compliance without reckoning with the military's historical neglect and repeated disregard for both state law and the county resolutions passed in 2008 demanding a halt to live fire and cleanup of existing contamination.

The courts have already ruled that the State has failed to care for this land. Approving this EIS and renewing the lease without proper accountability would not only violate your trust responsibilities, it would enable further desecration of a place that should never have been used for war training in the first place.

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

Please stand for the 'āina. Reject the Final EIS.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Hannah Hinrichs
Ukiah, CA

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes
Association
41-253 Ilauhole Street
Waimānalo, HI 96795



mail to: PO Box 353
Waimānalo, HI 96795
www.waimanalohha.com
(808) 426-1223

May 6, 2025

Board of Land and Natural Resources
Attn: Chair Dawn N. S. Chang
1151 Punchbowl St.
Kalanimoku Building
Room 132
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong Opposition to the U.S. Army's Lease at Pōhakuloa and Rejection of the U.S. Army's EIS

Aloha Chair Chang et al.

I am writing on behalf of the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association (WHHA) to express our strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area and to urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources' (BLNR) to reject the Army's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). For context, WHHA is a membership organization made up of the 700+ homestead leases found in Waimānalo, O'ahu. Founded in 1938, WHHA holds four purpose and objectives. Pertinent to this letter is the promotion of the welfare of our members in the community. While our organization is situated several channels from Pōhakuloa, every one of our members are of Hawaiian ancestry. Thus, Pōhakuloa and every sacred site across the pae'āina is our community. I will address several topics in this correspondence, including 'āina, culture, the insufficient EIS, and the State Constitution.

'Āina. Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land. It is also a home to rare and native species of plants and animals. As a result, Pōhakuloa is designated as a conservation zone. Military training activities of any scale are simply not compatible with CONSERVATION nor aloha 'āina.

Culture. Pōhakuloa is a wahi pana and is home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites. I am a direct descendant of Umi-a-Liloa. During the time of his rule of Moku o Keawe, Umi-a-Liloa erected both a kuahu and watchtower at Pu'u Ke'ekē'e. How are these spaces being cared for? Let's be honest, with the U.S. Army's occupation of the training area, these spaces receive no care. Seated at the center of Hawai'i Island, Pōhakuloa is a high plateau traditionally called the wao akua or realm of the gods. Traditionally, this space was reserved for deities and elemental spirits with no

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KENNETH HO, JR. (P), KILAUEA WILSON (V), APELA PE'AKI (T), KIRK DEITSCHMAN (S), H. ILIMA HO-LASTIMOSA, JOE AIPA

permanent settlements. Although, because of its close proximity to those elemental and godly spirits, many iwi kūpuna rest at Pōhakuloa.

Insufficient EIS. The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected. We base this position on the following: inadequate environmental and cultural impact analysis, lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources, concerns about the unaddressed matter of depleted uranium on the site, and that military usage is incompatible with Pōhakuloa's conservation district designation. The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR duty to mālama 'āina.

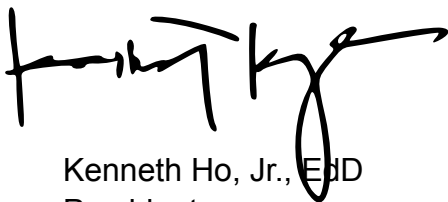
State Constitution. Several pieces of the Constitution talk about land. For this letter in opposition, I will address two. Firstly, the words uttered by Kauikeaouli are in the Preamble. That is to say that these words should be the guiding principle for the State and all of its functions, including that of the BLNR. Those words are also our motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono." It could be argued that the meaning is either the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness or the sovereignty of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Either way, this should be the BLNR's guide to its decision making process.

The other pertinent piece of the Constitution is found in Article XI, Section 1:

For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii'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.

Enough is enough. I urge the members of the BLNR to maintain the ea of Pōhakuloa and consider 'āina, culture, the insufficient EIS, and our State Constitution by rejecting the Army's EIS for Pōhakuloa. It is time to return these lands to the people and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Na mākou nō.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Ho, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Ho, Jr., EdD
President

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association

From: [Davrie Hoyle-Kamakahi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject Army EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:18:50 PM

Certainly. Below is a graduate-level testimony opposing the U.S. Army's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for continued land use at the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) in Hawai'i. This testimony is grounded in environmental science, Indigenous rights, historical context, and legal-ethical considerations.

Testimony Opposing the U.S. Army's Environmental Impact Statement for Pōhakuloa Training Area Lease Renewal

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Davrie Hoyle Kamakahi and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to the U.S. Army's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the continued military use and lease renewal of 23,000 acres of public lands at the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on Hawai'i Island.

As a graduate student in Public Health, I am deeply concerned by the continued degradation of Hawai'i's ecosystems, the infringement on Native Hawaiian rights, and the failure of the U.S. military to uphold basic standards of environmental stewardship and transparency. This DEIS exemplifies systemic shortcomings and insufficient accountability on multiple fronts.

1. Environmental Irreversibility and Scientific Negligence

The Army's activities at PTA—explosives training, live-fire exercises, and hazardous materials disposal—have already left lasting scars on one of the most ecologically and geologically sensitive areas in the archipelago. The DEIS fails to adequately address the cumulative and long-term impacts of decades of military use, nor does it provide credible plans for remediation or habitat restoration.

Pōhakuloa is home to numerous threatened and endangered species, including the palila (*Loxioides bailleui*) and rare native plants found nowhere else in the world. Continued military training here poses existential threats to this fragile biodiversity. The Army's environmental management track record at PTA—including loss of native habitat, fire mismanagement, and contamination—is not only insufficient but disqualifying for further lease renewal.

2. Breach of Trust and Disregard for Kanaka Maoli Sovereignty

The State of Hawai'i holds public lands, including the parcel at PTA, in trust for the benefit of Native Hawaiians under the 1959 Admission Act. The continued militarization of these lands contradicts the fiduciary responsibility of the State and undermines Kanaka Maoli claims to land, self-determination, and cultural continuity.

The Army's DEIS marginalizes Indigenous perspectives by treating cultural sites and practices as bureaucratic hurdles rather than as integral to a living culture. The presence of sacred sites, burial grounds, and wahi pana (storied places) at PTA demands not just consultation but

consent—a standard that the military has repeatedly failed to meet.

3. Legal and Procedural Inadequacy

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates that all federal agencies consider environmental consequences in their actions. Yet this DEIS reads more like a procedural formality than a genuine effort to engage in meaningful environmental review. It lacks robust alternatives to continued military use, fails to incorporate full public input, and downplays past violations.

Moreover, the Army's failure to meet court-ordered cleanup requirements and transparency obligations in previous land management cases undermines the credibility of any current promises for stewardship.

4. Ethical Imperatives and a Just Transition

We are in a time of global climate crisis, Indigenous resurgence, and deepening awareness of historical injustices. Continuing to prioritize militarism over environmental care and cultural restoration is ethically indefensible. Hawai'i deserves a future rooted in peace, not perpetual preparation for war.

The expiration of the current lease should be a turning point—a chance to begin remediation, ecological restoration, and the return of lands to Native Hawaiian stewardship. The Army's continued presence at Pōhakuloa is incompatible with these goals.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the rejection of the Army's Environmental Impact Statement and oppose any lease renewal of the Pōhakuloa Training Area.

Me ka 'ōia'i'ō,

Davrie K Hoyle Kamakahi
MPH, Hawai'i Pacific University

From: [Nicole Ishii](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the US Military from Bombing Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:59:04 PM

Aloha,

I am emailing to show that I strongly do not support the US Military Bombing of Pōhakuloa. It causes environmental harm and completely disrespects our Native Hawaiian cultural tie to the land. Please have the military clean up its years of waste and remove their weapons of destruction.

Thank you,
Nicole

From: [Brooklyn Jones1](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Calling for U.S. Army's Final EIS Rejection
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:53:33 AM

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Brooklyn. I would like to implore you to reject the U.S. Army's Final EIS as government servants who are sworn to protect the people and aina of Hawaii. The U.S. army does not have the people nor the aina in their best interests, and are only concerned with the continued oppression and occupation of our beautiful Hawaii.

I am not only writing as a college student studying environmental science, but a girl who was born and raised as a part of the Hawaii community. I beg you to think of our precious native species and the health of the environment and people, as they are all connected. Please protect all of their interests by not allowing the U.S. Army to continue with this form of occupation and abuse.

Mahalo nui,
Brooklyn Jones
808-283-4934

From: [Tevita O. Ka'ili](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Opposition to the U.S. Army's Proposed Lease Renewal at Pōhakuloa Training Area
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:49:35 AM

Testimony in Opposition to the U.S. Army's Proposed Lease Renewal at Pōhakuloa Training Area

Aloha mai kākou,

I am Professor Tēvita O. Ka'ili, a cultural anthropologist and advocate for Indigenous rights, writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed renewal of its lease on 23,000 acres of state land at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on Hawai'i Island.

From an Indigenous Tā-Vā Philosophy perspective, which emphasizes the interwoven nature of time (tā) and space (vā), the land and the people are inseparable. The ongoing military activities at PTA disrupt this Indigenous relationality, causing harm to both the environment and the people of Hawai'i.

The Army's use of PTA has led to environmental degradation, including contamination from unexploded ordnance and depleted uranium, posing serious health risks to local communities. Moreover, these activities have desecrated sacred sites, violating the spiritual and cultural rights of Kānaka 'Ōiwi, Native Hawaiians.

The Indigenous Tā-Vā Philosophy teaches us that our existence is defined by our harmonious relationships with the land and each other. The continued militarization of Pōhakuloa undermines these relationships, eroding the cultural identity and sovereignty of the Hawaiian people.

I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to honor the principles of environmental justice and Indigenous rights by denying the lease renewal. Let us work together to restore and protect Pōhakuloa, ensuring it remains a place of cultural and ecological significance for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Tēvita O. Ka'ili, Ph.D.

Professor of Anthropology & Cultural Sustainability
Editor, [*Pacific Studies*](#)
Faculty of Culture, Language, & Performing Arts
Brigham Young University Hawai'i, #1927
55-220 Kulanui Street
Lā'ie, Hawai'i 96762
Office: 808-675-3692
Office Cell: 808-295-2930
tevita.kaili@byuh.edu
tkaili@gmail.com
Zoom: <https://byuh.zoom.us/j/2330804972>

Author of [*Marking Indigeneity*](#) (University of Arizona Press, 2017)
Co-Author with 'Okusitino Māhina & 'Anapesi L. Ka'ili of [*Ko e Ngaahi 'Ata mei he Hisitoŋlia mo e Kalatua 'o Tonga : Ke Tufunga'i ha Lea Tonga Fakaako*](#) (Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland, 2006)

From: [Ezariah Kanakaole](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please read this!!!
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:17:01 PM

Aloha my name is Ezariah, im a 13 year old student on oahu, born and raised on the land of hawaii. I'm one of the very many children of the next generation of Hawaiians and I urge you to read this carefully!! I dont want the lease renewed. I understand that you are training on our lands and preparing for anything to come but you are polluting our lands with your bombs, and explosives that don't go off when you throw them, and still when they do go off you are still actively polluting our aina with stuff that kills our land. Even after you bomb, shoot up, and train on our land you do not clean it! You say "you leave it be" but you aren't!! You are on our land so therefore we get to say what you guys do! You can't just bomb our aina and expect us to be okay with it, even back then when you kicked people out to claim that part of our land and destroy it!! Hawaii's motto states **"Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono"** Which says The land is perpetuated in righteousness, but to break it down it means to protect our aina and preserve its sacredness! You guys are actively bombing sacred land that belonged to our ancestors and destroying it not only does bombs destroy the land physically but can leave a long-term ecological disruption! I urge you to respect that and stop to think about it and its people! It's not fair you pay 1\$ while we struggle to afford daily life!! Bills and force us out of our land!! Only 12% of us Hawaiians are still on this land! Leave our land!! Clean it and go home please! That's all I ask.. Us hawaiians only make up 17% of the entire Hawaiian islands! I've watched so many friends and relatives get priced out of our lands working multiple jobs at once just to afford food, while bills are a whole new problem!! My family and I are getting priced out as we speak! So please leave our lands be! Again i DON'T want the lease renewed Mahalo.

From: [J. Ekela Kaniaupio-Crozier](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject Army's EIS (Agenda item D1).
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:20:36 AM

To the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area and to urge the Land Board to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a *wahi pana*, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to properly steward this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, public safety, and long-term degradation of both land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are incompatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or *aloha 'āina*. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- **Inadequate environmental and cultural impact analysis**
- **Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources**
- **Unaddressed concerns about depleted uranium contamination on site**
- **Military use conflicts with the land's conservation district designation**
- **Approval of the EIS would violate the BLNR's constitutional duty to *mālama 'āina***

I urge the members of the Land Board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

No ka pono o ka lāhui a me ka 'āina o kākou,

J. Ekela Kaniaupio-Crozier

Waiehu Kou, Maui

--

O ka manaoio, o ka hilinai ana no ia ma na mea i manaolana ia ai a o ka hoomaopopo hoi o na mea i ike maka ole ia. (Hebera 11:1)

From: [Hina Kaopua](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony OPPOSING FEIS for Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:03:17 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I write to ask you to firmly **reject** the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area. Pōhakuloa holds such cultural, ecological, and spiritual importance to the people of Hawai'i, and the Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as responsible steward of these significant lands. Additionally, the FEIS fails to meaningfully address critical concerns about its treatment of Pōhakuloa.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water. Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duties, including the duty to mālama i ka 'āina. As affirmed by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in *Kahaulelio v. DLNR* (2019), "the State has 'the highest duty to preserve and maintain the trust lands' — a duty rooted in the constitutional obligation to mālama 'āina, to care for the land." The Court emphasized that the State's trustee obligations exist even without proven lease violations, noting the duty is proactive and preventative. Furthermore, the Court found that the State of Hawai'i had breached its constitutional trust duties by failing to: reasonably monitor and inspect trust lands at Pōhakuloa leased to the U.S. military; ensure compliance with cleanup and safety provisions in the lease; take timely action after learning of possible contamination or violations; and document its efforts and provide transparency to the public. We cannot allow this to ever happen again.

Ongoing military use is not compatible with the purposes of a conservation district designation. Ongoing live-fire and bombing in the area threaten the native flora, fauna and cultural resources of the area, including some of Hawaii's most endangered species. The EIS does not provide specific or adequate mitigation measures to prevent impacts to the critical habitat or culturally significant sites.

I urge you, honorable members of the board, to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. Fulfill your kuleana as stewards this place, and as good ancestors to the generations to come.

Me ke aloha 'āina,
Kaiakahinali'i Ka'ōpua-Canonigo

Mānoa, O‘ahu

From: [Mary Kealaiki](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: BLNR - Opposition to PTA FEIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:29:04 AM

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Mary Kealaiki and I am writing in opposition of FEIS for the Pōhakuloa Training area.

For years, this land had been used as a bombing site, testing grounds & a training ground for the military. For years I have watched the military use the land leased to them for a dollar per year as they pleased. There is live ammunition left on the ground and wild dust storms that spread quickly due to personnel driving throughout the base roads. How many of my ancestors have been desecrated and disrespected in order for the military to use Pōhakuloa as they would like? For years they have not taken care of this land that we come from; the land that my people are still fighting for.

As a Native Hawaiian and also as a human being, the military's proposed plan will not work for the community of Hawaii. Our concerns have gone unaddressed for too long, ranging from environmental impacts to the aquifer and leakage of harmful wastes produced by the military. And I am thankful that our community has come together to submit testimonies for this hearing, to bring more attention to our concerns for the land, the water and the people.

I ask that the BLNR reject the FEIS and protect the land of Hawaii. Not just for the present but also for the future generations to come.

Mahalo,

Mary K

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kaikaina Kekua](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa Testimony
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:31:56 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

I am a kumu at a Hawaiian Immersion school in Kāneʻohe, I teach my students about wahi pana of Koʻolaupoko. They are young but understand the importance of protecting these places. Please show them that you do too.

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Kaikaina Kekua
Kāneʻohe

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jamie Klunder, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, holding spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka 'Ōiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina—bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, sparking wildfires, and violating the terms of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964.

The Final EIS is grossly dishonest. It fails to fully acknowledge decades of environmental destruction, cultural harm, and community opposition. It assumes future compliance without reckoning with the military's historical neglect and repeated disregard for both state law and the county resolutions passed in 2008 demanding a halt to live fire and cleanup of existing contamination.

The courts have already ruled that the State has failed to care for this land. Approving this EIS and renewing the lease without proper accountability would not only violate your trust responsibilities, it would enable further desecration of a place that should never have been used for war training in the first place.

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

Please stand for the 'āina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Jamie Klunder

Wailuku, Maui

From: [Robin Kutkowski](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject army EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:54:03 PM

I strongly urge you to reject new army EIS. Our islands are sacred and we need environmental protections in place.
Enough is enough!

Thank you,
Robin Kutkowski

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha Chairperson Dawn Chang and Members of the Board

Board of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawai'i

1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132

Honolulu, HI 96813

As the owner of Integrated Security Technologies, Inc. (a small electrical company in Hawaii) and as a member the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i's Military Affairs Council (MAC), **I am writing in strong support of the U.S. Army's request to retain training lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).**

I see the very real impact PTA has on our economy and community. The Army's presence at PTA supports not just military readiness, but also our island's economic and community well-being. It means jobs, contracts for local businesses, and consistent support for our economy. In my experience, the Army has also shown respect and partnership, supporting local nonprofits, assisting in emergency preparedness, and collaborating on responsible land use. As an example, in my visit to PTA a few years ago I was amazed as the commitment to the preservation of native plant species in the area. I later found out that DOD provided millions in REPI funding to protect and restore rare species of plants and animals only found in Hawaii.

I urge the Board to take the time to thoroughly review and accept the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). I believe the Army is working in good faith to strike a thoughtful balance, preserving culturally and agriculturally important lands while maintaining vital training capacity.

Accepting the FEIS is not just about training – it's about continuing a relationship that brings value to our community and reinforces shared responsibility. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Christine Lanning, MSIS, PSP

President

Integrated Security Technologies Inc.

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Leading Hawaii To A Safer Place

From: [Christine Lee](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Desecration of Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:09:56 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and

the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Christine Lindsey Lee
Honaunau, Hawai'i

Dear BLNR,

My name is Valentina Lewis, and I'm a student at UH Mānoa. I was born and raised on Maui, and I'm writing to **strongly oppose** the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement that would allow continued use of Pōhakuloa Training Area.

I'm frustrated, heartbroken, and tired.

For decades, the military has used Pōhakuloa like a disposable piece of land. Dropping bombs, leaving toxic waste, and destroying sacred sites. This is not just "training land." This is our 'āina, home to endangered species and cultural practices that have existed long before the Army ever arrived. And the damage they've done can't be undone with a report or a PR statement.

Growing up in Hawai'i, I was taught to mālama our 'āina. But what kind of message are we sending when Hawai'i island is getting bombed and desecrated? The U.S. Military completely fails to address the long-term environmental damage and cultural trauma caused by this straight-up ongoing abuse.

The Army claims it needs this land for national security. But what about the security of our people, culture, and ecosystems? What about the security of future generations to inherit clean, living land?

This isn't just about one location. It's part of a larger pattern of militarization across our islands and it has to stop.

I urge you to reject the Army's Final statement and not extend this lease. It's time to stop bombing Pōhakuloa. Clean it up and take care of our 'āina the way it takes care of us every day. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,
Valentina "Tia" Lewis
Journalism Student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

From: [Lin, Dennis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of the Pohakuloa Training Area
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:57:21 PM

Aloha Chair and members of the Board,

My name is Dennis Lin, Deputy Director for the County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development. I am in support of PTA. I urge the board to accept the Final Environmental Impact Statement. I have been up to PTA in the past year, and the military has done a great job in protecting the local environment through their work in preserving the local fauna as well as preserving any archeological sites in the area. The current leadership at PTA has shown a deep commitment to this community and is willing to listen, and respond with solutions not excuses.

Mahalo for your consideration of this issue.

Dennis Lin
Deputy Director, Research & Development
County of Hawai'i
808-961-8366
25 Aupuni Street, 1301
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: [Jaslyn L.](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Request to Reject the Army EIS to use Pōhakuloa as Bomb Site
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:50:58 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS. Although based on O'ahu, I work every year with people on Hawai'i island, especially in the Waimea area.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

The EIS is inadequate in assessment of the usage of land, as the harmful chemicals used in the bombs can greatly impact the wildlife and natural resources the state continually seeks to protect through current conservation programs. Also, there are ongoing concerns about depleted uranium that has not been cleaned up nor addressed.

Therefore, I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to begin the healing and restoration of these areas and seek new places for military bomb training.

Sincerely,
Jaslyn Loftin

From: [Yuki Kaea Lyons](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pohakuloa EIS Written Testimony
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:20:33 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and

the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Ka'ea

From: [Malia Marquez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:34:13 PM

Aloha Kākou,

Im writing to you to ask you, the BLNR, our Board that should be protecting our LAND and NATURAL resources to REJECT the Army's final Environmental Impact Statement.

They have been bombing our 'āina, our Earth Papa for over SEVENTY years!?!? And what's makes it even worse (as if ANY thing could be worse than that), the Army doesn't even clean up their ordinances! They have created detrimental impacts on our 'āina, our Pōhakuloa, by contaminating our wai and our lands.

How much more are we going to allow? Enough is enough. We don't owe the army anything! It's actually the opposite. They owe Hawai'i for all of the destruction, desecration and harm that they've done on numerous islands.

Please do the PONO thing. Do what ANY steward of our land would do and protect our 'āina and natural resources! To do ANY thing other than protect Pōhakuloa would be careless and pono'ole.

Please protect and help Pōhakuloa, these lands that have been abused for far too long. Mahalo for your time on this extremely sensitive and important issue.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Malia Lum-Kawaihoa Marquez

Stop destroying our aina! Land for the people and animals that live here not for the military!

From: [Izayah Maunakea](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lease
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:19:59 PM

Aloha, I am Izayah, a 13-year-old student in O'ahu, I don't want this lease renewed because the price of your hundreds of thousand acres being one dollar, while our average homes here are millions. I understand that you guys need this space to practice for war, but the amount of land that you are killing is absurd, and you pay a single dollar for life worth of land. For each soldier's life lost, for each Hawaiian life, or foreign life lost, you're paying a dollar to practice, bomb, and you can't even clean up after yourself? The least you could do is pay us the right amount that you owe us, for all of our cultural land, for our grounds that feed and take care of us, burned to ashes, and treated like a junkyard. And I do understand that this seems necessary for safety and protection, but you can't put down that we were illegally taken, illegally controlled and brainwashed, all so that the U.S can have power. And be honest, stop trying to make things seem more reasonable, tell the truth and give us your actual reason for it. In closing, I don't want this lease renewed, because this is our land that we still spiritually own, for all of our land killed, you can't even admit how much life that you destroy with a straight face while only having to pay a jolly rancher's worth.



Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and

begin a real process of healing and restoration.

In Peace,

Ku'uleinani Maunupau
CEO
Native Hawaiian Philanthropy

Aloha Land Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Pōhakuloa Training Area**, and to **urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS**.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a **wahi pana**, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable **Native Hawaiian cultural sites** and some of Hawai'i's most **endangered species**. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the **burning of nearly 20,000 acres**, including designated **critical habitat** for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about **environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation** of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or **aloha 'āina**. Enough is enough.

The FEIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by **rejecting the Army's FEIS** for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Ke'ili McEvilly

From Waimānalo, O'ahu

From: [Alika M.](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Opposing Agenda Item Regarding Final EIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:46:43 PM

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Alexander McNicoll, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, holding spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka 'Ōiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina—bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, sparking wildfires, and violating the terms of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964.

The Final EIS is grossly dishonest. It fails to fully acknowledge decades of environmental destruction, cultural harm, and community opposition. It assumes future compliance without reckoning with the military's historical neglect and repeated disregard for both state law and the county resolutions passed in 2008 demanding a halt to live fire and cleanup of existing contamination.

The courts have already ruled that the State has failed to care for this land. Approving this EIS and renewing the lease without proper accountability would not only violate your trust responsibilities, it would enable further desecration of a place that should never have been used for war training in the first place.

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

Please stand for the 'āina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Alexander McNicoll
Wai'anae, Hawai'i, O'ahu

From: [Tanya Vioria](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pohukuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:16:14 PM

As a kanaka, I object to the bombing on Pohukuloa! You don't understand how devastating it is to our culture and our livelihood. You are destroying our islands. We, as the islanders are opposed to this. Take it somewhere else please, leave our islands alone! This is all we have left for our future generations!

Respectfully,
Nolani Merseberg

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Andrea Mondoy-Honaker
253-232-6454

From: [sandra.morey](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Puhakuloa : Aloha Land Board Members
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:47:44 AM

Puhakuloa is a "wahi Pana" or sacred space. Bombing it is not fitting for a sacred space. It is not meant to be obliterated, but to be protected. There is refuge for endangered species in these places. Ongoing live-fire & bombing threatens native flora, fauna & cultural resources of the area. These resources cannot be renewed once destroyed. 20,000 acres have already burned & this FEIS is seriously insufficient for the protection of the land, water, soil and the citizenry. I ask that you reject it until it is revised for the better.

Sincerely,
Sandra Morey

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Paul Moss

From: [ALIKA H. SPAHN NAIHE](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject Army's EIS of Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:32:17 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty to mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and

the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Alika Spahn Naihe

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in regards to the army's EIS for Pōhakuloa. I urge BLNR to reject the EIS due to cultural, environmental, and health concerns. The impact and futurity of Pōhakuloa as a space for Native Hawaiian cultural practices, endemic species habitation, and resource contamination is in jeopardy due to a poor history of neglect when it comes to the following: environmental cleanup, the protection of endemic and endangered species, insufficient cultural impacts, and inadequate evaluations for alternatives to continuously desecrating Pōhakuloa. Therefore, I must strongly urge that the army's EIS be rejected.

--

Mālie Nee (She/Her)

Political Science & Native American Studies Undergraduate | University of California Davis

(808) 436-3336 | mknee@ucdavis.edu

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Erin Maluhia O'Donnell

Kamuela, Hawai'i

From: [B Pila](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area (agenda item D1)
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:51:15 AM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. Entire generations have not known what it is like to have this place honored as sacred. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. After over 75 years, enough is enough.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration so that future generations may know it as the sacred place it is.

Sincerely,

Brandie Pilapil
Hilo, Hawai'i

Renewal of lease at Pōhakuloa training area is in an environment that is unique and sacred to kanaka maoli and important to the watershed of the island I call home. I am offended that it was leased for such a low sum and misused in such horrible ways. I would advise strongly the board to put the pressure of the Army aside and look at the flawed Environmental impact study as a clear indicator to their lack of stewardship of the land. I would reject the EIS and the potential of a lease renewal, further I would seek damages, restitution and restoration of the land. Think of the fuel leak at Red Hill, think of the water table now damaged by radioactive rounds. Think of the future cleanup and the costs involved for what? Further damage with a worthless dollar as compensation. You make decisions on another island for people that you don't know. So put yourself in the position of someone in the future looking back at your actions now and realize that I am not some radical outlier, I am someone here on the island that is being affected asking for you to make a sensible decision and reject the EIS and force the cleanup of our Mauna.

Aloha Harry Pomerleau

Aloha,

My name is Michelle Jericho Poppler. I strongly oppose any renewal of land leases to the United States military. The land at Pōhakuloa must be returned to the stewardship of Kanaka Maoli, specifically to the Native Hawaiian descendants whose families lived on these lands and were forcibly removed at gunpoint following the imposition of martial law on December 7, 1942.

Once the current leases expire in 2029, the only just role for the United States is to fully remediate the land, including the removal of unexploded ordnance, and to provide fair and adequate compensation to the rightful stewards of these lands.

This is a matter of justice, responsibility, and respect for the 'āina and its people.

Mahalo for your attention to this urgent issue,
Michelle Jericho Poppler

From: [John Roney](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pohakuloa Renewal of Lease
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:29:39 PM

Dawn Chang
Chairperson
BLNR

Subject: Continue Support of Pōhakuloa Training Area

Dear Chairperson Chang,

My strong support for the Army's continued use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) should be retained on Hawai'i Island. An advocate for responsible land management, PTA plays a contributes to cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship. These resources are important during these difficult times.

Military Training and National Security: PTA allows our armed forces to conduct essential training exercises, ensuring our military readiness and preparedness. ^[1] It also allows our Hawaii National Guard to train to be prepared to respond to natural disasters or hazardous events that impact the people of the State of Hawaii. Retaining this land is vital for maintaining our national security and for the safety of the people of Hawaii.

Cultural Resources Management: PTA's rich cultural heritage deserves protection, and the Army's commitment to compliance and sustainability through its Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans is laudable. USAG-PTA's Cultural Resources team conducts archaeological surveys of sites and monitor more than 35 archaeological sites for effects from troops and hoofed mammals, or ungulates, such as pigs and goats. The Cultural Resources team also preserves and ensures the protection of cultural shrines, habitation caves, burial sites, and pictographs that date as far back as the 15th century.

Environmental Stewardship: PTA's 23,000 acres are home to diverse ecosystems, and the Army's efforts to minimize adverse environmental impacts are crucial for future generations. In 2023, PTA was selected as one of 13 Military installations across the entire Department of Defense for the 2023 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge. This 2.6-million-dollar project (1.3 provided by REPI funds and 1.3 million in partner contributions) was for the Nāpu'u Natural Resource Protection to mitigate rare plant impacts at PTA.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the Army's continued presence at Pōhakuloa Training Area. The Army's continuing partnership with the State of Hawaii in balancing military training,

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

John Roney
421 Wainaku Street, Hilo, HI
1955Aztec@gmail.com

From: [Mary Christa Smith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on EIS for Pōhakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33:06 PM

Aloha,

I write to you with my heart full of concern for our beautiful Hawai‘i Nei.

I understand that you will be voting on whether to accept or reject the Army’s final EIS for Pōhakuloa.

I ask that you reject it.

It is time for healing and in order to heal, we must stop the harm that is occurring. The ongoing bombing is a threat to the health and wellbeing of every resident of Hawai‘i Island. The army has not been accountable to their kuleana to clean up their mess. The EIS statement is flawed and inaccurate as it does not account for the full scope of the damage the Army has inflicted.

You have the power and an opportunity to ensure that the land is protected for future generations. This is your kuleana. You play a critical role in protecting our natural resources. I am concerned that so much of this discussion has taken place out of public view, out of sight of public scrutiny. If you want trust, you must be accountable to the people and to the land, water and wildlife.

Reject the Army’s EIS statement.

Kindly,
Mary Christa

Mary Christa Smith

[She/They](#)

www.consciouscoalitionconsulting.com

[Follow on Substack](#)

marychristasmith@gmail.com

435-640-9189

From: [maile luaehu](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject the Army's Impact Statement for Pohakuloa
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:08:25 AM

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing in support of ending military leases and rejecting the US Army's Impact Statement for Pohakuloa. For decades the US has desecrated sacred spaces in Hawai'i and caused irreversible damage and contamination to our land and water.

As a Native Hawaiian with ancestral ties to 'āina, it pains me to know that requests to end this destruction have been repeatedly ignored. I will continue to advocate for protecting our sacred spaces and strongly urge you to do what is pono for our land and future generations.

Mahalo piha ... me ka ha'aha'a,

Maile Soon

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. Enough is enough.

The FEIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Sven Sorge

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

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I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,

Jean Stevens



Sent from my iPad

Aloha kākou,

I am submitting my testimony to ask that the BLNR reject the Army's EIS for the following reasons:

1. The Army admits widespread contamination, but refuses to assess or clean it up.
2. The Army cannot prove that contamination hasn't spread into water or ecosystems.
3. The Army won't share safety procedures or spill data, and DELETES critical information.
4. Fires, endangered species, and climate harms are dismissed without evidence.
5. The FEIS evades Hawai'i law by ignoring obvious cumulative impacts.

Please do the pono thing and REJECT the Army's bogus EIS. They have not demonstrated that they are responsible, truthful, or honorable stewards of Pōhakuloa. This abuse of land and people cannot continue.

Aloha 'āina (with love for the land),

Lauren Kamalei Stovall
resident of Waimea, Hawai'i

Hello,

I am an educator and community member writing to urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to **reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement in Pohakuloa**. I am highly concerned about the Army's admission to widespread environmental contamination and simultaneous refusal to comprehensively assess or clean up the area, provide transparency as to the spread and impacts of contamination and waste, or show any meaningful care to the lands which they bomb and desecrate, which include endangered species, rare ecosystems, and sacred sites. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kyra Teigen

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

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I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Na'u,
Chariya Terlep-Cabatbat
Hawai'i Moku (Island) Resident

From: [Back Up](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Agenda Item D1
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:29:26 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

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the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Laycie Tobosa
Hilo, Hawaii

From: [ellie toia valdez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REJECT EIS on Pohakuloa!
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:26:16 PM

My name is Ellie Toia Valdez- I'm Māori, but situations like these make me want to speak up!

The land is being contaminated with radiation- which is harmful for the environment, ecosystem and Hawaiians. People and the government know the effects of radiation- cancer and other harmful diseases could plague Hawaiians for generations!

I support the protection of Hawaii and America, but it is not right to use stolen land to protect America. There are states on the mainland that have already been used for this purpose and they could do that training there. If the Hawaiians do not want this on Pohakuloa- you should listen.

Not to mention- Hawaii is one of the islands that has the most plants and animals on the brink of extinction. This situation is not helping us protect Hawaiian plants and animals.

Let's live by these principles:

1 . Mourn all victims of violence. 2. Reject violence & war as solutions. 3. Defend civil liberties. 4. Oppose all discrimination: anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, anti-Hawaiian, anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-Russian, anti-LGBTQ, etc. 5. Seek peace through peaceful means and work for justice in Hawai`i and around the world.

Ellie Toia Valdez

From: [Ashlee Valeros](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Opposing Agenda Item Regarding Final EIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area – May 9, 2025
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33:27 PM

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Ashlee Valeros, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, holding spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka 'Ōiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina—bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, sparking wildfires, and violating the terms of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964.

The Final EIS is grossly dishonest. It fails to fully acknowledge decades of environmental destruction, cultural harm, and community opposition. It assumes future compliance without reckoning with the military's historical neglect and repeated disregard for both state law and the county resolutions passed in 2008 demanding a halt to live fire and cleanup of existing contamination.

The courts have already ruled that the State has failed to care for this land. Approving this EIS and renewing the lease without proper accountability would not only violate your trust responsibilities, it would enable further desecration of a place that should never have been used for war training in the first place.

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

Please stand for the 'āina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Ashlee Valeros

Laie, HI, Oahu

From: [Kamakanihoalahiaokauano Victor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:18:43 PM

Aloha, my name is Kamakani and I am a 14 year old student on O'ahu and I don't want to renew the lease for Pōhaukuloa because of our ancestors in the land that they took away from us. My dad's family had land over on a big island and his grandma owned it and when she died and there was no one there anymore ,they said all of her descendants "were not there" , that they didn't exist, that my dad and his dad as well as their siblings did not exist. My dad told me how the land wasn't small plots that we have now but, we had acres and acres of land that was Not ours cuz we did not exist. More and more of our land is being taken away from us because of the price. They have to pay 1.00\$ but we have to pay over 300\$ just to keep our lights on and water running. I have seen my own neighbor get priced out here and moved to Utah because of the cost and there struggles to pay the bills. So again I don't want to renew the lease.

May 6, 2025

TO: BLNR Chair Dawn Chang and Board members,
From Deborah Ward
RE: Pohakuloa EIS

Aloha, Chair and Board members,

My name is Deborah Ward. I have lived in Hawai`i for 60 years, and have resided on the Island of Hawai`i for forty of those years. As a public servant, as a county commissioner, and as volunteer koa tree planter, I regularly commute through the region between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa known as the saddle. I am well aware of the impact that military activity has on the lives of the residents.

I have reviewed the most recent EIS and find it does not accurately reflect the degree of flagrant environmental degradation inflicted on our `aina. Nor does this EIS provide appropriate remedies for the ongoing abuse of our endangered plants and animals, constant fires, dust-storms of noxious chemicals, pollution of our aquifer, and damage to cultural heritage and landscape that will be forever too dangerous to enter. I have personal knowledge and experience with each of these issues, but in the two minutes allowed for testimony, I urge you to REJECT this EIS on its face.

Not only is the consultation and response to community concerns insufficient, the DLNR staff report indicates that damage to `iwi kupuna in the impact zone would be likely to continue. I have personal knowledge that the inventory of cultural sites and artifacts is inaccurate and incomplete, and files regarding work commissioned by the military are not referenced. Standing stones associated with navigation and cultural ceremony are closely associated with those on the slopes and summit of Mauna Kea. The recognition of the site as a wahi pana and critical to the health and well-being of the native people is of upmost importance!

Efforts to conduct helicopter training while endangered birds were fledging in the past flew in the face of concerns of biologists, and the lack of robust biological data to defend future actions leads me to believe that the proposed assurances are not credible.

The changes to our environment as a result of reduced precipitation are evident in the parched landscape, and yet Army activities continue to cause repeated and multiple fires, damaging irreparably the habitat of some of our most precious and vulnerable flora and fauna.

Dr Don Thomas conducted a 6,400 ft drill test to determine the hydrology of the Saddle region. Both shallow and deep aquifers were discovered, but the water samples taken at the shallow site underlying the base have never been released. The failure to release the

analysis leads us to question what pollutants may not have been disclosed in the EIS document.

The use of lands in the Conservation District is not consistent with the proposal, and the actions proposed are not consistent with the eight criteria outlined in BLNR Administrative Rules.

While I believe that if BLNR conducted the hearing on the island of Hawai`i, board members would have heard far more response from our community, and while I believe that further investigation, including consultation with lineal descendants via the Section 106 process, would elucidate a more poignant and informed document, I feel it is imperative to REJECT this Final EIS, because a failure to do so would reward the impunity of the US government, while failing to return the land to the aggrieved rightholders, the native people of Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Deborah Ward

P.O. Box 918 Kurtistown HI 96760

From: [Leona Watson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please REJECT Army's EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:37:38 PM

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

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Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and

the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Sincerely,
Leona P. Watson
Nānākuli, O'ahu

From: [Kylee-Rose Werner-Danielson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I DO NOT WANT THE LEASE RENEWED.
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:16:01 PM

Aloha My name is Kylee I am a 15 year old student on Oahu as the next generation of hawaiian caretakers, it is crucial to have the lease renewed. As it affects our land, resources, and our people. How is it fair that they paid only 1 dollar for all that land, when us hawaiians can barely even afford housing or land to live on in our home and we only make 17% of Hawai'i. This land is sacred our ancestors remain in this land and us descendants need to restore as it next land caretakers, leave this land at peace, leave it alone, keep it hawaiian hands, I do not not want the lease renewed.

From: [Imai Winchester](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REJECT MILITARY FEIS; REJECT RENEWING LEASES
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31:14 PM

TO: Board of Land and Natural Resources

RE: **REJECT** the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement

Aloha kakou,

My name is Imaikalani Winchester, and I am a Kanaka Maoli, a teacher, and parent. I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed renewal of military leases on Hawaiian lands**. I also call for an immediate and permanent end to all negotiations regarding renewing these leases, which are set to expire in 2029.

The history of these lands cannot be ignored. In 1964, the State of Hawai'i leased over 29,000 acres of public lands, many of them so-called "*ceded lands*," to the U.S. military for the outrageous sum of \$1 per year. This decision enabled the military to conduct destructive live-fire exercises, destroy sacred lands, and leave behind unexploded ordnance and depleted uranium. Places like Makua Valley, Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaiiloa, Puuloa (Pearl Harbor) and Kapukaki (Red Hill) have suffered environmental degradation and cultural harm for nearly seven decades, all under the guise of "national defense." But as the late George Helm, revered Hawaiian leader and martyr, once asked: "What is national defense when what is being destroyed is the very thing the military is entrusted to defend?"

This is not about negotiating a better deal. There is no amount of money that can justify the continued desecration of aina. These lands are not vacant training grounds, they are sacred, storied, and irreplaceable. The damage already inflicted is already extensive and irreversible in many areas. Renewing these leases sends a clear message to the people of Hawaii: that military power outweighs cultural survival, environmental justice, and Native Hawaiian rights.

The FEIS itself fails to meaningfully address the cumulative harms, historical trauma, and cultural impacts of military occupation. Public trust has eroded due to the military's poor stewardship, broken promises, and lack of accountability. There is no path forward that begins with more bombs and ends with healing.

We cannot afford to play this "game" again. The people of Hawai'i hold the stronger hand now, and it is our kuleana to act with courage and clarity. Like Kaho'olawe before it, these lands must be returned to the people and to the earth. Enough is enough.

I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Governor Green to honor their commitments to future generations and reject the FEIS in full. End all negotiations. Restore the aina. Return what was never freely given.

E mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono.

Me ke aloha aina oia io,
Imaikalani Winchester
Halau Ku Mana PCS

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

For example, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is unacceptable. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina.

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on several grounds:

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed
- Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation
- The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty mālama 'āina

As a native Hawaiian, a Big Island resident and a mahi'ai for my 'ohana and the kaiāulu, I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pauleen H. Wright
15-1903 19th Ave
Kea'au, HI 96749



May 05, 2025

Chairperson Dawn Chang and Members of the Board
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of the Pohakuloa Training Area (BLNR Meeting 5/9/2025)

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board:

As a member of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i's Military Affairs Council (MAC), I am writing in full support of the U.S. Army's request to retain training lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

The ability to train year-round at PTA is essential to maintaining operational readiness and preparing our service members for the complex challenges they face across the Indo-Pacific. The unique terrain, scope, and location of PTA make it irreplaceable for joint exercises, disaster response, and mission-critical coordination.

I urge the Board to carefully review and accept the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). I am confident the Army is making a sincere effort to identify solutions that preserve lands of cultural and agricultural value while ensuring that the training mission can continue.

PTA has long represented a partnership between the military and the community, fostering readiness, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Accepting the FEIS ensures this balanced approach can move forward.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris N. Nakagawa", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kris N. Nakagawa
Vice President, Legal & External Affairs
Young Brothers

Aloha Board of Natural Resources,

I am Testifying Against ALL and Any LEASES To ANY LANDS TO DO WITH MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANY WAY.

STOP ALL The Continued DEVASTATION, DESTRUCTION, and DEMISE Of OUR WATERS, LANDS, and AIR To POHAKULOA MILITARY PRACTICES And ANY OTHER HAWAIIAN LANDS ANYWHERE IN THE 137 ISLANDS INCLUSIVE.

My Father Robert Joe Albert Under the Command of COLONEL KUPAU Was Stationed In The ARMY at SCHOFIELD, RED HILL, PUNALU'U VALLEY (My Home Village) /LIVE FIRE BOMBING/ TRAINING Was and POHAKULOA. After the WAR around 1945 he came here with the MERCHANT MARINES, Leaving that Finished DUTY Transferring To THE ARMY. Meeting a Hawaiian Girl He Wanted To Stay Here.

He Used to Tell Us Kids Stories and Laid Down The RULES:

1) NEVER GO NEAR *REDHILL*
It is HIGHLY POISONOUS

2) NEVER GO TO POHAKULOA/ BRADSHAW FIELD EVERYWHERE HAS UNEXPLODED BOMBS. IT IS HIGHLY POISONED INCLUDING THE DEEP UNDERGROUND WATERS.

ALL LEASES MUST NEVER BE RENEWED.
NO NEW LEASES ON ANY HAWAIIAN LANDS
ANYMORE. STOP ALL BOMBING N O W !!

I am 1 of The ARRESTED MAUNA KUPUNA 🏔️

Patricia Louise LEIMOMI Greene

From: [Karmondy Rose Costa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:12:22 PM

Aloha my name is karmondy rose, I am a 14 year old student who attends kawaihona. And I DO NOT want the lease renewed because If you didn't know YOU are hurting our ancestors, YOU are hurting our land, YOU are hurting our lahui, YOU are hurting us, YOU are killing sacred land. This stupid lease is killing our land, its killing our kupuna's homes and land. You guys need to STOP destroying our land. Pokahuloa or any other US bases on our 'aina is killing us. THE US BASE made HUGE cans filled with jet fuel in our mountains, which leaked into our aquifer which caused OUR water to be contaminated with jet fuel. MANY people got poisoned by the jet fuel that YOUR PEOPLE put into our land. And its not fair you only had to pay \$1 for that land when barely half of hawaii could afford to live here, and yet you guys had a budget of over a billion dollars that you couldn't even give back to us, yall didn't repay the kupuna that you didn't you kicked out of THERE OWN LAND. You guys just need to think of others and not yourselves, this act may be benefiting you but did it ever benefit us. And the fact that it wasn't your land in the first place. Its makes it worst that you didn't even repay us a cent, its the little things that matter. The least you can do is repay us.