

**Aloha Chair Chang and Honorable Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,**

Thank you all for your volunteer service. My name is Laura Acsaio, and I am submitting this testimony in my **personal capacity**. I strongly urge you to **REJECT** the Army's legally and substantively deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.

This FEIS is incomplete and deeply flawed. It lacks a concrete plan or meaningful commitment to remediate the 'āina contaminated by decades of military use, foreclosing the public's ability to fully assess the potential benefits of land relinquishment—including the restoration of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, protection of public health, food security, housing, and economic development.

The Department of Defense has a long record of broken promises and environmental harm—from the Navy's poisoning of O'ahu's sole source aquifer at Red Hill, to the failure to remediate toxic contamination at Radford High School, to the mishandling of lead exposure at Pu'uloa, and the Army's concealment of depleted uranium use at Schofield. These legacies of contamination demand a clear, enforceable remediation plan—without one, this FEIS cannot be accepted under our environmental review laws.

Additionally, the FEIS:

- Relies on outdated biological data with no current baseline;
- Omits necessary surveys of streams, historic sites, and cultural resources;
- Fails to include published mo'olelo or sufficient consultation with cultural knowledge holders;
- Provides insufficient information to assess impacts on constitutionally protected Native Hawaiian practices;
- Lacks adequate analysis of groundwater contamination threats;
- Does not reconcile planned uses with conservation district and forest reserve laws, nor propose a path toward compliance;
- And most importantly, proposes no real plan for restoring the land if it is returned to the state.

These concerns mirror those previously raised by DLNR staff, the community, and this Board in rejecting the Pōhakuloa FEIS—yet the Army has ignored that feedback and submitted this document in blatant disregard of the public trust and Hawai'i's laws.

Accepting this FEIS would set a dangerous precedent: that our environmental protections, cultural rights, and responsibilities as stewards of these lands can be bypassed without consequence. Please uphold your kuleana and the mission of your department—to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited resources in trust for current and future generations.

**Reject this FEIS.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Laura Acasio**

**From:** [Kaliko Aiu](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] REJECT Army FEIS - testimony for June 26, 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:17:54 PM

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Aloha mai e BLNR,

My name is Kaliko Aiu, and I am writing to testify that I support the points made in the DNLR Staff Submittal on Item 1D and the Staff recommendation to REJECT THE ARMY'S FEIS.

As we have seen demonstrated countless times by the military's occupation of kānaka 'ōiwi lands, when the military moves forward without a thorough and complete understanding of the environmental impact of its actions, devastatingly harmful outcomes are not only possible but inevitable. It is simply impossible to care for something without knowing it and building a relationship with it. The Army has made little to no effort to build this relationship.

Rejecting the FEIS is a matter of protecting the cultural and environmental significance of the 'aina, the health and wellbeing of all people in Hawai'i, and ensuring that there is a future for the keiki of the next seven generations.

Mahalo for your time,  
Kaliko Aiu  
June 25, 2025

**From:** [Andrea Anixt](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Why NO EIS APPROVAL FOR Kahuku Training Area Military please  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:46:55 PM

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Aloha BLNR members

The known history of past damages to the thousands of acres from Schofield to Kahuku's KTA.

Damages include radioactive depleted uranium, asbestos, ozone depleting chemicals and other highly toxic and carcinogenic materials tossed into the air and on miles of agricultural land and Turtle Bay Resort area workers and all residents!

More damage via the military is the toxic and highly invasive *c. odorata*, aka Devil Weed, was brought first to Hawai'i at Kahuku Training Area in January 2011. It can kill pets and people. It spread to civilian sites in Pupukea, Kahana, Aiea, and now all over our islands...Are they eradicating it? How much does it cost us to host them? Lease rent does not cover anywhere near these damages.

This is just not mitigated! Historical lessons should have been learned.

There is unexploded ordinance from World War 2 left behind on many more acres on the windward side of O'ahu that could be returned to growing healthy food or something else good for you and me and future generations.

Why should this KTA be considered the ideal area again for military use like the Stryker Brigade was - before it just wasn't?, and was moved to the mainland a few years later?

Keep the Country Country  
or

do the energy draining power supply required mean a build up of some unwanted nuclear energy plant and more radiation on residents health near KTA if their 'Star Wars future' development goes through? That would mean MORE erosion, taking more land too.

Where do the new military families rent when not enough housing for local residents exists already?

This rural community has not been  
Heard. Keep the Country Country!

Please deny the shibai of adequate mitigation in this Draft EIS.

And there is the erosion it causes.

**From:** [Calder Brezina](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:53:37 PM

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

My name is Calder Brezina and I support the points made in the DLNR Staff Submittal on Item D1 and the strongly urge you support the Staff recommendation to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.

Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.

DLNR Staff noted in their Submittal, "Throughout the EIS Process, the Department had an continues to have concerns with the following:

- That the contents of the draft/final EIS do not fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed action and that the draft/final EIS does not discuss all reasonably foreseeable consequences; and
- The data and analysis do not commensurate with the importance of the impacts

Do not forget that it is not only DLNR who agrees this is a faulty FEIS. Their submittable noted, "all applicable divisions of the Department (The Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), LD, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)), as determined by the Chairperson, were asked to review the final EIS in respect to their areas of expertise. After review of the final EIS, there appears to be a consensus among the divisions that the Final EIS is insufficient as there are clear lack of baseline data for the Department, and therefore the Board, to determine and understand the extent of any impacts to natural, historical and cultural resources. It is due to this consensus across the applicable Divisions that Staff has decided to provide a recommendation on non-acceptance."

SHPD noted that there are numerous historic and cultural sites that may not have been identified as the mo'olelo and stories of these places were ignored. SHPD also noted that the Army could bait and switch in this FEIS and may have other impacts that are not included in the EIS.

The Army did not take time to consult kupuna until after the FEIS was published... can we accept that as meaningful community consultation?

Enough is enough. There can no longer be special treatment for the US military. No special rules, including allowing military activities in a Conservation District, should be acceptable.

Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.

Along with the generations of trauma woven into the bodies and bloodstream of kanaka maoli who have been priced out of their homes, slowly watch their homeland turn into a playground for tourists or indoctrinated to believe the military is actually meant to protect us. No more.

Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Calder Brezina

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
June 26, 2025

Chair and Members,  
Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha!

I call on you to reject the **U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, and Poamoho. This FEIS is full of holes.** Much more information -- and updated information -- must be provided before this EIS can be considered complete, much less final.

We citizens count on you, the BLNR, to honor the public trust. As you know the BLNR is charged with protecting the present and future generations from abuses of our natural and cultural resources. **You can do that by rejecting this unacceptable excuse for a FEIS.**

Although I am haole (white/Caucasian), I take a strong anti-racist stance. Military leases in the islands interfere with Kānaka Maoli's (Native Hawaiians') access to their cultural and religious practices. **The native people should be able to use their own land and its resources safely and without environmental degradation.**

Abuse of power is evident in the US Army's proposal to extend its leases of native lands. This is a power grab as well as a land grab, and it is a gross injustice. I am completely opposed to the Army's retention of control over Hawaiian lands and the use of those lands.

Live-fire training in the Hawaiian islands needs to stop once and for all. Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) **suffer from the sounds of explosions in their valleys due to live-fire training. They should not have to live with that.** All residents need to be free from it.

No one has the right to determine for Native Hawaiians how much freedom they are "allowed" to have, **what land they are "allowed" to have access to, or under what conditions they are "allowed" to have access to it. It is their land, not ours.**

The Army's leases need to expire, and the Army needs to comply with terms of leases by cleaning up native lands, removing any ordinance or other forms of destruction caused by their use. I ask you to **oppose extending US military leases in Hawai'i.**

The return of the 'āina to the native Hawaiians is long overdue. It is time to give the land back to the native people, prevent future environmental damage, and undo the damage that has already been inflicted upon the land.

Mahalo for your attention.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Cain*

**From:** [Janiel Casiano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Janiel Marcel (Kahuku HMA)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:22:13 PM

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Aloha, My name is Janiel Marcel and I have been a member of the dirtbike community for 4 years.

As you are aware, the Kahuku Dirtbike Park, situated within the KTA training area, is the only legal public place for people to ride on Oahu, with limited hours of operation on weekends and national holidays. However, the park is closed during Army training missions, resulting in several months of closures per year and leaving over 5,000 riders without a legal place to ride. I am concerned that if KTA becomes the primary training area, it will lead to more closures or potentially permanent closure of the park. In this scenario, our riders will be forced to use trails not designated for dirtbikes. On behalf of our dirtbike community, I urge the board to consider this issue and establish safeguards to ensure the Kahuku Dirtbike Park remains open and accessible, with limited Army closures.

V/R

Janiel M. Casiano Real  
CELL: [\(931\)614-1582](tel:9316141582)



**From:** [latula@yahoo.com](mailto:latula@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] O'ahu Lease Lands Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:43:03 PM

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Agenda Item D-1 – Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Casper and I am a member of haahonolulu. I am writing to urge you to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaihoa–Poamoho, and Mākua. This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

#### Environmental and Health Hazards

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaihoa–Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

#### Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

#### Failure to Consider Alternatives

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands. Decommissioning or transition to

civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Casper

haahonolulu

**From:** [Laura oldfather](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FEIS for O'ahu military lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:13:55 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reject the US military's FEIS for the land leads in Makua Valley, Poamoho and Kahuku. There is insufficient care given to stream testing, cultural sights and general land degradation. There is also not nearly enough consideration included as to how the lands can be protected and restored if any damage is done.

Mahalo,

Laura Caverly

Lifetime Hawaii Resident

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**From:** [Ellen Ebata](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46:56 PM

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Aloha Department of Land and Natural Resources,

The purpose of this letter is to request your rejection of the U.S. Army's Final EIS for the Makua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area and Poamoho.

The most concerning aspect of this matter is that according to the Staff report, applicable divisions with respect to their areas of expertise - CWRM, DAR, DOFAW, LD, OCCL and SHPD - weighed in on the FEIS and there appears to be a consensus among them that the final EIS is insufficient due to a clear lack of baseline data for the Department/Board to determine and understand the extent of any impacts to natural, historical and cultural resources.

Doesn't the Army's negligence negate the purpose of an EIS ? It's not their first time to prepare one - that it has been so sloppily done indicates that they're assuming the State will accept a document of questionable accuracy.

Climate catastrophe is changing the scope and complexity of all environmental impact statements and the Army should be no exception.

The public trust doctrine requires that BLNR exercise due diligence in managing our natural and cultural resources.

Your core responsibility is to protect the interests of the present and future generations of beneficiaries of that trust.

Please reject this very flawed EIS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ebata



**From:** [ethan Thomas](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Kahuku motocross  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:50:34 PM

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Aloha, my name is Ethan Thomas I have been a member of the dirtbike community for 20 years.

I am concerned that if Kya becomes the primary training area, it will lead to more closures or potentially permanent closure of the park. In this scenario riders will be forced to use trails not designed for dirtbikes. On behalf of our community I'm urging the board to consider this issue and establish safeguards to ensure the kahuku dirtbike area remains open and accessible, with limited army closures.

Thank you

**From:** [Cory](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO on Item D-1-- Army EIS --June 27  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:36:02 PM

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Aloha board members,

Please REJECT the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu. Where is the military plan to clean up after themselves--Kaho'olawe, Red Hill, Ordnance Reef, Pu'uuloa, depleted uranium, and numerous old military sites? The military is a bad actor that needs to make things right before it gets a green light to continue.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

**From:** [Ana Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR Testimony Submission - Ana Hernandez  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:42:11 PM

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I support the points made in the DLNR Staff Submittal on Item D1 and the Staff recommendation to reject the FEIS.

I also submit this testimony in strong opposition to any further U.S. military occupation of Hawaiian land and in firm support of the immediate return of these stolen lands to their rightful stewards.

The illegal occupation of Hawai'i by the United States—beginning with the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and cemented through forced annexation—has enabled decades of environmental destruction, cultural erasure, and violence against the land and people. The military's continued presence is not only a continuation of this colonial harm but an active threat to global survival in this time of escalating war and climate crisis.

The U.S. military has proven itself a poor and reckless steward of these lands. From the poisoning of water at Red Hill, which harmed me and my family, to the desecration of sacred sites from live-fire exercises that ravage ecosystems, and the rampant sexual violence inflicted upon Native Hawaiian women by military personnel, the record is clear: the military's interests are incompatible with the health of this 'āina and its people. These islands are not a bargaining chip for empire—they are a living nation with the right to restore its independence.

In a world teetering on the brink of nuclear war and ecological collapse, demilitarization is not just a moral imperative but a necessity for collective survival. The expiration of this lease is a critical opportunity to begin rectifying historical wrongs.

I urge the full return of these lands, without conditions, to Kanaka Maoli stewardship and the broader process of demilitarization and decolonization. No extensions. No excuses. The occupation has lasted long enough!

Me ke aloha no ka 'āina,  
Ana Hernandez



**From:** [celena kahealani](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] REJECT the Army's FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:38:04 PM

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Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Kahealani and I am a first-generation, native Hawaiian student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I am emailing to strongly urge you to **reject** the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaiiloa–Poamoho, and Mākua.

This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

### **Environmental and Health Hazards**

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaiiloa–Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed.

Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### **Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability**

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights.

Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### **Failure to Consider Alternatives**

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for

restorative uses of these lands.

Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing.

I urge you to vote **NO** and **reject** this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Me ke aloha,

Kahealani

**From:** [Keenan Kapule](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR MEETING  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:17:14 PM

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Aloha, My name is Keenan and I have been a member of the dirtbike community for 18 years. As you are aware, the Kahuku Dirtbike Park, situated within the KTA training area, is the only legal public place for people to ride on Oahu, with limited hours of operation on weekends and national holidays.

However, the park is closed during Army training missions, resulting in several months of closures per year and leaving over 5,000 riders without a legal place to ride. I am concerned that if TA becomes the primary training area, it will lead to more closures or potentially permanent closure of the park. In this scenario, our riders will be forced to use trails not designated for dirtbikes. On behalf of our dirtbike community, I urge the board to consider this issue and establish safeguards to ensure the Kahuku Dirtbike Park remains open and accessible, with limited Army closures.

**From:** [Matthew Mako](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Nuff Already...  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:16:21 PM

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The people of O'ahu don't need luxury condos built on empty sacred land at Kahuku point.  
The people of O'ahu don't need a gondola to carry up and down the sacred ridges of Ka'ala...  
The people of O'ahu don't need more shopping malls or none of that.

What we need is to keep our dirt track and trails accessible for all ohana to carry on culture.  
Keep  
It open. Make the Army pay our island more money and allow us to have more days.

Respectfully Submitted  
Matthew Mako

Forest fortuna adiuvat

**From:** [reemz m.](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1 - REJECT FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:44:27 PM

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## Agenda Item D-1 – Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Rima Miles. I write to urge you to reject the Army’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaihoa–Poamoho, and Mākua. This misleading FEIS is inadequate and an offense to impacted communities. It fails to meet the standards required under Hawai‘i law while ignoring major concerns and minimizing very real harms. You are charged to protect public trust lands, and have an obligation to confront such shortcomings.

### Environmental and Health Hazards

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn’t been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaihoa–Poamoho. Risks to health, ‘āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There’s no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### Failure to Consider Alternatives

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands. Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and

violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

THIS FEIS IS NOT A GENUINE ASSESSMENT—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. We have decades of local experiences of the impacts and lack of accountability of the ARMY. We have learned from communities across Oceania and who share similar experiences. The blatant disregard for communities and this process itself, demonstrated by such an inadequate FEIS, is evidence that we must put an end to this exploitive relationship. Accepting the FEIS would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Rima Miles

Kaua'i, HI

**From:** [M. Mitsumori](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:23:20 PM

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Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As a resident of Hilo on Hawai'i Island, I am writing to respectfully urge you to **reject the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)** for the Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, and Poamoho.

The FEIS is so replete with deficiencies that DLNR staff have themselves come to a consensus that the final EIS is "insufficient due to a lack of baseline data for the Department, and therefore the Board, to determine and understand the extent of any impacts to natural, historical, and cultural resources" (p. 10); and recommend that the Board not accept the final EIS (emphasis added).

Shortcomings of the FEIS include failing to gather enough information to determine any impacts to ground water (p. 7), including the potential for reducing the availability of drinking water, and the failure to include proposed cleanup and restoration activities of any land returned to the State as part of the overall scope of the proposed action (p. 8).

We have already seen the damage done to the drinking water supply for O'ahu by the leakage from the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility. On Hawai'i Island, we have decades of damage from Pohakuloa.

I respectfully urge Members of the Board to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources as required by the public trust doctrine and reject this FEIS.

Thank you for your leadership and discernment, and for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely yours,  
Michele Mitsumori  
Hilo, Hawai'i

**From:** [Jasmine Newton](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:26:13 PM

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Aloha Land Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

These places are not just a piece of land—they are wahi pana, sacred and beloved places that hold the stories and legacy of Kānaka Maoli. They are sacred burial sites, endangered species habitats, and the birth stands of generational families. Decades of misuse to 'āina occupied by the Army has proven that they are not capable of being the stewards of these significant wahi pana.

Additionally, the military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with the intention of conservation, upholding cultural integrity, and 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 disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands
- None of the 3 training areas provide housing to their service folks; thus decreasing the availability of affordable housing to local residents, and displacing Kānaka Maoli
- Restrictive cultural access policies hindering Kānaka Maoli cultural practices and access to numerous historical and sacred sites
- 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 Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation. It is time to release military hold on these lands, and allow their generational caretakers to begin the healing process.

Sincerely,  
Jasmine Jade Newton



**From:** [Honu Nichols](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:48:10 PM

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

My name is Honu‘āina Nichols and I support the points made in the DLNR Staff Submittal on Item D1 and the strongly urge you support the Staff recommendation to REJECT the Army’s legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O‘ahu.

Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.

DLNR Staff noted in their Submittal, “Throughout the EIS Process, the Department had an continues to have concerns with the following:

- That the contents of the draft/final EIS do not fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed action and that the draft/final EIS does not discuss all reasonably foreseeable consequences; and
- The data and analysis do not commensurate with the importance of the impacts

Do not forget that it is not only DLNR who agrees this is a faulty FEIS. Their submittable noted, “all applicable divisions of the Department (The Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), LD, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)), as determined by the Chairperson, were asked to review the final EIS in respect to their areas of expertise. After review of the final EIS, there appears to be a consensus among the divisions that the Final EIS is insufficient as there are clear lack of baseline data for the Department, and therefore the Board, to determine and understand the extent of any impacts to natural, historical and cultural resources. It is due to this consensus across the applicable Divisions that Staff has decided to provide a recommendation on non-acceptance.”

SHPD noted that there are numerous historic and cultural sites that may not have been identified as the mo‘olelo and stories of these places were ignored. SHPD also noted that the Army could bait and switch in this FEIS and may have other impacts that are not included in the EIS.

The Army did not take time to consult kupuna until after the FEIS was published...

can we accept that as meaningful community consultation?

Enough is enough. There can no longer be special treatment for the US military. No special rules, including allowing military activities in a Conservation District, should be acceptable.

Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.

Along with the generations of trauma woven into the bodies and bloodstream of kanaka maoli who have been priced out of their homes, slowly watch their homeland turn into a playground for tourists or indoctrinated to believe the military is actually meant to protect us. No more.

Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Honu'āina Nichols

**From:** [Kenzie Ozoa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14:09 PM

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Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Mackenzie Ozoa. I am writing to urge you to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaiiloa–Poamoho, and Mākua. This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

### **Environmental and Health Hazards**

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaiiloa–Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### **Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability**

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### **Failure to Consider Alternatives**

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands. Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Mackenzie Ozoa

**From:** [davidsher@juno.com](mailto:davidsher@juno.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:09:00 PM

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

After years of abusing Hawaiian land to be bombed, burned, and polluted, the army now has the audacity to submit another thoroughly inadequate FEIS for its continued use of lands on O‘ahu. Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document.

Further, this FEIS lacks requested data as to how past and potential future military activities under the proposed action may contaminate our groundwater, and necessary remediation plans. This is unacceptable.

I urge you to do the honorable thing and **REJECT the FEIS** put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Sherry Pollack

**From:** [Leo Nahe Smith](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Reject Army's FEIS - Protect O'ahu Wahi Pana  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46:04 PM

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Aloha BLNR Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

The report is haphazardly slapped together, I think they were hoping to pass as being good enough, but good for who? Definitely not for our 'āina, definitely not for us kānaka, and not even good enough for their own people. They have shown everyone that they are even willing to poison their own people (Ex: Red Hill) so long as it means that their weaponry, fuel, and inhumane training can continue on.

I am from Maui and moved to O'ahu just last summer. Now I knew that there were military bases on this island but it was not until I moved here did I realize just how pervasive they were. I am not sure about you all but in no way did I feel safer or at ease knowing that "the people intended to protect this nation" were close by. In fact I felt quite the opposite. I worked on a farm on the West side of O'ahu, in Wai'anae/Nānākuli valley and I remember during my first week at the farm there was this subtling rumbling sound beneath my feet. This kept on happening so eventually I had to ask the other mahi'ai, "what is that?" and in the most casual and honestly chilling tone I was told, "that's probably the military practicing on the other side of the mauna". Even in the morning, we would chant E hō mai and would hear faint sounds of rounds going off. It felt like the craziest juxtaposition, to be actively caretaking the 'āina, while being serenaded by the military in the background. That is not normal and we cannot normalize it!

This 'āina should have never been given to the Army to begin with but what's done is done. They are not good stewards of this 'āina and that behavior will not change. Do what is pono and REJECT the Army's FEIS for Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation and get us one step closer to reducing their presence in Hawai'i loa.

Na,  
Leo Nahe Smith  
96782

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:44 PM Leo Nahe Smith <[its.leonahe@gmail.com](mailto:its.leonahe@gmail.com)> wrote:  
| Aloha BLNR Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

The report is haphazardly slapped together, I think they were hoping to pass as being good enough, but good for who? Definitely not for our 'āina, definitely not for us kānaka, and not even good enough for their own people. They have shown everyone that they are even willing to poison their own people (Ex: Red Hill) so long as it means that their weaponry, fuel, and inhumane training can continue on. I am from Maui and moved to O'ahu just last summer. Now I knew that there were military bases on this island but it was not until I moved here did I realize just how pervasive they were. I am not sure about you all but in no way did I feel safer or at ease knowing that "the people intended to protect this nation" were close by. In fact I felt quite the opposite. I worked on a farm on the West side of O'ahu, in Wai'anae/Nānākuli valley and I remember during my first week at the farm there was this subtling rumbling sound beneath my feet. This kept on happening so eventually I had to ask the other mahi'ai, "what is that?" and in the most casual and honestly chilling tone I was told, "that's probably the military practicing on the other side of the mauna". Even in the morning, we would chant E hō mai and would hear faint sounds of rounds going off. It felt like the craziest juxtaposition, to be actively caretaking the 'āina, while being serenaded by the military in the background. That is not normal and we cannot normalize it! This 'āina should have never been given to the Army to begin with but what's done is done. They are not good stewards of this 'āina and that behavior will not change. Do what is pono and REJECT the Army's FEIS for Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation and get us one step closer to reducing their presence in Hawai'i loa.

Na, Leo Nahe Smith 96782

**From:** [Mahi](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item d-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:40:37 PM

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*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is Kaiewa Spencer and I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,  
Kaiewa Spencer*



## **Agenda Item D-1 – Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Lauren Taijeron and I am a member of Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu. I am writing to urge you to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua. This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

### **Environmental and Health Hazards**

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaihoa-Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### **Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability**

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### **Failure to Consider Alternatives**

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands.

Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Lauren Taijeron

**From:** [Laurie Takeno](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony of Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:39:09 PM

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Aloha Chair Chang and 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 **Kahuku Training Area, Kawaiiloa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**. I strongly urge the land board to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of these sacred and culturally significant lands on O'ahu.

Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. The FEIS lacks sufficient disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.

Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence. Approving it would go against the constitutional duty of BLNR.

For the sake of everything that makes Hawai'i Hawai'i, I ask that you uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future: reject the FEIS.

Mālama pono,  
Laurie Takeno

**From:** [Steven Thomas](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:05:45 PM

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

I, Steven Thomas, hereby submit this testimony in **strong support of the DLNR staff submittal and recommendation to reject the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)** under Agenda Item D-1.

As a cultural practitioner grounded in the values of **Aloha 'Āina, kuleana, and pilina**, it is my personal mission is to uplift and protect Hawai'i's people, land, and culture. I stand firmly with the many voices across Hawai'i that are calling for the end of U.S. military leases on public lands at **Mākua, Pōhakuloa, Kahuku, Poamoho, and the East Range training area in Wahiawa**.

These are not just military training areas — they are our ancestral lands, home to iwi kūpuna, wahi pana, and sacred sites that hold deep cultural, historical, and spiritual meaning. For decades, the Army has **desecrated these lands**, leaving behind **'āina filled with opala, unexploded ordnance, and long-term environmental destruction**.

The military is and has been disrespecting **our community and our laws**. The noise from **constant gunfire and low-flying aircraft shakes our homes and disturbs our families at all hours of the day and night**. These sounds of war have become an unwanted backdrop to our daily lives, creating an environment of trauma, especially for our keiki and kūpuna. This has **never been pono** — never carried out with care or consideration for the people who live here.

Our communities have **spent years providing guidance** to the Army, offering our knowledge and testimony in hopes that our voices would lead to change. We have called attention to the physical, cultural, and environmental harm that the military's occupation continues to cause. Yet, the Army has **failed to meaningfully incorporate this input** into the FEIS. Instead, the process reflects a continued pattern of dismissal and a belief that the military operates above the law.

It does not. And the BLNR has an opportunity and responsibility to assert that.

We also recognize the broader context: **Hawai'i remains under illegal occupation by the United States**, and the continued use of our lands for warfare and training directly contradicts our identity as a place of peace. In a time of escalating global conflict, it is urgent that Hawai'i begin the process of **demilitarization** and the restoration of our lands to their rightful stewards — the people of Hawai'i.

I fully support the return of all Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands at **Mākua, Pōhakuloa, and Kahuku**, and we urge the Board to **reject the FEIS** in alignment with the DLNR staff recommendation.

Mahalo for your time and for carrying out this kuleana with integrity and aloha.

Mahalo,

Steven Thomas

Cultural Practitioner

Member- Hui Kūlike Kākou

**From:** [U.O](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:19:13 PM

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Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please register my opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, and Poamoho. It is the BLNR's responsibility to carefully manage our natural resources, and the flawed FEIS should be rejected as part of that duty. We can have a strong military presence (if necessary) AND still hold them accountable. Oahu's drinking water supply was polluted, and acres of land on all the islands have been destroyed by bombing and military exercises. Their promises to clean up the mess they leave behind rings hollow, when they simply haven't done so.

PLEASE hold them accountable and make them take our state government seriously. Reject the FEIS and make them obey the law. I have lived here my whole life (65 years), and am worried for the younger generations. Enough is enough.

Mahalo nui loa,

Suzette Tom  
1025 Waimanu Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [Michael Wessel](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] KTA LEASED ARMY AREA  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:30:13 PM

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Aloha, My name is Michael Wessel and I have been a member of the dirt bike community for 25 years. As you are aware, the Kahuku Dirt bike Park, situated within the KTA training area, is the only legal public place for people to ride on Oahu, with limited hours of operation on weekends and national holidays. However, the park is closed during Army training missions, resulting in several months of closures per year and leaving over 5,000 riders without a legal place to ride. I am concerned that if KTA becomes the primary training area, it will lead to more closures or potentially permanent closure of the park. In this scenario, our riders will be forced to use trails not designated for dirt bikes. On behalf of our dirt bike community, I urge the board to consider this issue and establish safeguards to ensure the Kahuku Dirt bike Park remains open and accessible, with limited Army closures.

Aloha

Michael

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**From:** [Nathan Abril](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Direct Opposition to Acceptance of the Army's O'ahu Leased Lands FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:55:41 PM

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Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in direct opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

Your own Land Division staff and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) found that this FEIS fails to meet legal standards under HAR § 11-200.1-28(b)(2) and must be rejected. This is more than a technical issue — it reflects an ongoing pattern of harm and disregard for 'āina, culture, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities.

#### Why the FEIS Must Be Rejected:

##### 1. No Baseline Data:

DLNR staff confirmed that key environmental and cultural data is missing. Without it, neither the Board nor the public can understand the full impacts — putting ecosystems, species, sacred sites, and watersheds at risk.

##### 2. Incomplete Cultural Review:

The Army's Cultural Impact Assessment ignored significant mo'olelo like Kelea, Lā'ikanaka, and Pa'ahana. These stories are connected to the affected lands and deserve inclusion. The exclusion reflects a failure to engage Native Hawaiian knowledge and protocols with integrity.

##### 3. Major Areas Unsurveyed:

Large areas of KTA, MMR, and Poamoho remain unsurveyed — possibly containing iwi kūpuna, wahi pana, and unrecorded cultural sites. Failing to survey these areas puts them in danger.

##### 4. Ignores Future Harm:

Though framed as "administrative," the FEIS lays the groundwork for continued warfighting activities. It fails to assess cumulative and long-term impacts, dismissing potential harm rather than addressing it.

#### Legal Grounds for Rejection:

- **Lacks Required Information:** Baseline data is missing, making the FEIS legally and ethically insufficient.
- **Fails Chapter 343 Standards:** It does not fully assess impacts, consider real alternatives, or adequately respond to public and agency input.
- **Ignores SHPD Concerns:** Key feedback from SHPD — to include more stories, survey more land, and protect sacred sites — was disregarded.
- **Doesn't Consider Alternatives:** The Army only evaluated options that keep them on the land, ignoring community-led or conservation-based stewardship models.

#### Trust and Kuleana:

The State has a duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural and natural resources. Accepting this

FEIS would continue a legacy of military harm, ignore expert recommendations, and betray public trust. In alignment with your own staff's recommendation, I urge you to reject the Army's FEIS.

As you are aware, your fiduciary duty is to the people's of Hawai'i and you are required by law to make decisions that are in the best interest of us, our lands, waters, and natural resources— not to the United States Military and their missions of “national security” or “war readiness.” Stand for the ‘āina, for iwi kūpuna, and for the future of Hawai'i.

In Truth and Kuleana,  
Nathan Abril  
Oahu, Democratic Socialists of Oahu (DSO)  
[nathan.abril@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.abril@gmail.com)



Moses Kaoiwi Jr.  
1441 Kapiolani Blvd STE 1114 710769  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
June 25, 2025

Chair Dawn Chang and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Support for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Training Land Retention on O'ahu

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the U.S. Army's proposed retention of State of Hawai'i lands at the Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation on the island of O'ahu.

**The Importance of Army Training:** These training areas are essential to the readiness of our armed forces. The diverse terrain and climate of O'ahu provide a realistic environment for preparing soldiers to respond to a wide range of missions, from humanitarian assistance to combat operations. These lands are also critical for joint training with our allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific, enhancing regional security and ensuring interoperability in the face of growing threats.

**Stewardship of Native Plants and Cultural Resources:** The Army has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to environmental and cultural stewardship. Through the O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program (OANRP), the Army has:

- Propagated and outplanted endangered native species such as the Ka'ala loulu (*Pritchardia kaalae*), an endemic palm tree of the Wai'anae Mountains. This effort includes fencing to exclude invasive animals, rat control to protect seeds, and nursery propagation to reintroduce the species into the wild.
- Maintained rare plant nurseries at Schofield Barracks, where thousands of endangered plants are cultivated for restoration projects.
- Protected cultural sites through archaeological surveys and preservation efforts, including the safeguarding of burial sites and coordination with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners.
- Invested over \$12 million annually in natural and cultural resource programs, including seed labs, greenhouses, and community partnerships for outplanting and education.

These efforts reflect a deep respect for the 'āina and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i.

**Strategic Importance for Regional Security.** The Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua areas are not only vital for U.S. military preparedness but also serve as key locations for multinational training exercises. These lands support the development of credible combat forces and strengthen alliances that are essential to maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the Board to accept the Final EIS. The Army's continued use of these lands is critical for national defense, demonstrates responsible stewardship, and supports the broader mission of regional security and environmental preservation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Moses Kaoiwi Jr., Brigadier General, USA Retired.

**From:** [Ericka Badua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE:FEIS Moku 'o O'ahu ā Lua, Ke one 'o Kākuhihewa, Kō Hawai'i Pae 'Āina  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:44:16 PM

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Aloha Kākou,

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

I am giving testimony in regards to, also, I strongly urge you to REJECT the U.S.Army's legally flawed Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for land retention on O'ahu.

This FEIS repeats the same serious issues your Board identified in rejecting the Pōhakuloa FEIS—such as missing cultural and biological surveys, lack of proper consultation with Native communities, and unresolved,extensive land use violations. It also fails to address stream impacts, risks to groundwater, and plans for land cleanup.

Approving this FEIS would show that our environmental laws, public trust responsibilities, and the rights of Native, Indigenous, and Aboriginal peoples can be ignored without accountability.

I also remind you that the U.S. is legally but unlawfully occupying Hawai'i. No valid treaty has ever been produced to justify U.S. claims. Meanwhile, there is extensive documentation proving the Hawaiian Kingdom still exists. Under international law—including the Laws of Occupation—Kānaka Maoli and others of Hawaiian descent hold postliminium rights.

Please uphold your duty to protect our sacred L.A.W.S.(Land,Air,Water,Sea), and the future of Hawai'i . Reject the FEIS.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sgt.T. Keohokapu 'o Keawehāwai'Ī, O.F.H.Army/Repatriated

All rights reserved as pursuant to:

HRS 490:1-308 with prejudice



**From:** [Charles Brown III](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A Testimony for the Rejection of the FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:59:59 PM

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I support the points made in the DLNR Staff Submittal on Item D1 and the Staff recommendation to reject the FEIS. The Army has lied about the actual impacts of lease renewals, even using outdated data from 2003 to measure them. Army occupancy has also led to the contamination of water on land that is not even theirs. This cannot go on for the sake of Hawaiian land and the local community.

Charles

**From:** [Shantee Brown](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Reject Army FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:35:26 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Shantee Brown, and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition** to renewing the U.S. Army's lease for State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawailoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation. I respectfully urge the BLNR to follow the DLNR staff recommendation to reject the FEIS, to reject the lease renewal, and support the return of these lands to the people of Hawai'i, nā Kānaka 'Ōiwi.

The Army's own Final Environmental Impact Statement confirms what our communities have long known: military control has severely limited cultural access and harmed our ability as Kānaka 'Ōiwi and Hawai'i residents to care for and connect with these places. Despite policies for cultural access, the reality is that access is highly restricted — requiring advance requests, military escorts, and limiting who, when, and where we can go. This prevents us from practicing our traditions, stewarding the land, and teaching future generations. The continued lease would only extend these harms.

I call on the BLNR to prioritize restoration and cleanup of these lands, not further occupation. Please return them to community stewardship so Native Hawaiians and local residents can care for them as our kūpuna intended. The

‘āina deserve healing, and our people deserve meaningful access without military barriers.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Shantee Brown

Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i

**From:** [Meredith Buck](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Re: Army FEIS for Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:38:41 PM

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Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

These places are not just a piece of land—they are **wahi pana**, sacred and beloved places that hold the stories and legacy of Kānaka Maoli. They are sacred burial sites, endangered species habitats, and the birth stands of generational families. Decades of misuse to 'āina occupied by the Army has proven that they are not capable of being the stewards of these significant wahi pana.

Additionally, the military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with the intention of conservation, upholding cultural integrity, and **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 disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands
- None of the 3 training areas provide housing to their service folks; thus decreasing the availability of affordable housing to local residents, and displacing Kānaka Maoli
- Restrictive cultural access policies hindering Kānaka Maoli cultural practices and access to numerous historical and sacred sites
- 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 Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation. It is time to release military hold on these lands, and allow their generational caretakers to begin the healing process.

Sincerely,  
Meredith Buck  
Kailua Kona // Mililani

**From:** [Lisa darcy](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:05:58 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is critical the BLNR to hold the Army accountable to the law, and to REJECT this flawed FEIS. I have been following this issue with thousands and will not settle for inadequate reporting as acceptable.

Mahalo for your attention,  
Lisa Seikai Darcy  
Kula, Maui, HI



**From:** [Ke'ala'iliah Ford](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:15:07 PM

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*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is Ke'ala Ford and I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ke'ala Ford*

**From:** [Nicole Gonzales](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Direct Opposition of the Army's Oahu Leased Lands FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:01:22 PM

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Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in direct opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

Your own Land Division staff and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) found that this FEIS fails to meet legal standards under HAR § 11-200.1-28(b)(2) and must be rejected. This is more than a technical issue — it reflects an ongoing pattern of harm and disregard for 'āina, culture, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities.

## **Why the FEIS Must Be Rejected:**

### **1. No Baseline Data:**

DLNR staff confirmed that key environmental and cultural data is missing. Without it, neither the Board nor the public can understand the full impacts — putting ecosystems, species, sacred sites, and watersheds at risk.

### **2. Incomplete Cultural Review:**

The Army's Cultural Impact Assessment ignored significant mo'olelo like Kelea, Lā'ikanaka, and Pa'ahana. These stories are connected to the affected lands and deserve inclusion. The exclusion reflects a failure to engage Native Hawaiian knowledge and protocols with integrity.

### **3. Major Areas Unsurveyed:**

Large areas of KTA, MMR, and Poamoho remain unsurveyed — possibly containing iwi kūpuna, wahi pana, and unrecorded cultural sites. Failing to survey these areas puts them in danger.

### **4. Ignores Future Harm:**

Though framed as “administrative,” the FEIS lays the groundwork for continued warfighting activities. It fails to assess cumulative and long-term impacts, dismissing potential harm rather than addressing it.

## **Legal Grounds for Rejection:**

• •

Lacks Required Information: Baseline data is missing, making the FEIS legally and ethically insufficient.

- •

Fails Chapter 343 Standards: It does not fully assess impacts, consider real alternatives, or adequately respond to public and agency input.

- •

Ignores SHPD Concerns: Key feedback from SHPD — to include more stories, survey more land, and protect sacred sites — was disregarded.

- •

Doesn't Consider Alternatives: The Army only evaluated options that keep them on the land, ignoring community-led or conservation-based stewardship models.

## **Trust and Kuleana:**

The State has a duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural and natural resources. Accepting this FEIS would continue a legacy of military harm, ignore expert recommendations, and betray public trust. In alignment with your own staff's recommendation, I urge you to reject the Army's FEIS.

As you are aware, your fiduciary duty is to the people's of Hawai'i and you are required by law to make decisions that are in the best interest of us, our lands, waters, and natural resources— not to the United States Military and their missions of “national security” or “war readiness.” Stand for the 'āina, for iwi kūpuna, and for the future of Hawai'i.

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## **In Truth and Kuleana,**

Nicole H Gonzales,

Oceanview, HI

808-443-8125

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

**From:** [Jan Herrick](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: No Lease Renewal for Army Occupation of Hawai'i Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:53:56 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Janice Herrick, and I am a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to renewing the U.S. Army's lease for State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākuā Military Reservation.

I respectfully urge the BLNR to reject the lease renewal and support the return of these lands to the people of Hawai'i, nā Kānaka 'Ōiwi.

The Army's own Final Environmental Impact Statement confirms what our communities have long known: military control has severely limited cultural access and harmed our ability as Kānaka 'Ōiwi and Hawai'i residents to care for and connect with these places.

Despite policies for cultural access, the reality is that access is highly restricted — requiring advance requests, military escorts, and limiting who, when, and where we can go. This prevents us from practicing our traditions, stewarding the land, and teaching future generations. The continued lease would only extend these harms.

I call on the BLNR to prioritize restoration and cleanup of these lands, not further occupation. Please return them to community stewardship so Native Hawaiians and local residents can care for them as our kūpuna intended. The 'āina deserve healing, and our people deserve meaningful access without military barriers.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Janice Herrick  
Wailuku, Maui

**From:** [Kimmer Horsen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony BLNR  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:54:04 PM

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To: [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)  
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item D-1

*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is Kimmer Horsen and I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kimmer Horsen*

**From:** [vincent.huynh](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Direct Opposition to Acceptance of the Army's O'ahu Leased Lands FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:47:10 PM

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Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in direct opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

Your own Land Division staff and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) found that this FEIS **fails to meet legal standards under HAR § 11-200.1-28(b)(2)** and must be rejected. This is more than a technical issue — it reflects an ongoing pattern of harm and disregard for 'āina, culture, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities.

#### Why the FEIS Must Be Rejected:

##### **1. No Baseline Data:**

DLNR staff confirmed that key environmental and cultural data is missing. Without it, neither the Board nor the public can understand the full impacts — putting ecosystems, species, sacred sites, and watersheds at risk.

##### **2. Incomplete Cultural Review:**

The Army's Cultural Impact Assessment ignored significant mo'olelo like Kelea, Lā'ikanaka, and Pa'ahana. These stories are connected to the affected lands and deserve inclusion. The exclusion reflects a failure to engage Native Hawaiian knowledge and protocols with integrity.

##### **3. Major Areas Unsurveyed:**

Large areas of KTA, MMR, and Poamoho remain unsurveyed — possibly containing iwi kūpuna, wahi pana, and unrecorded cultural sites. Failing to survey these areas puts them in danger.

##### **4. Ignores Future Harm:**

Though framed as "administrative," the FEIS lays the groundwork for continued warfighting activities. It fails to assess cumulative and long-term impacts, dismissing potential harm rather than addressing it.

#### Legal Grounds for Rejection:

- **Lacks Required Information:** Baseline data is missing, making the FEIS legally and ethically insufficient.
- **Fails Chapter 343 Standards:** It does not fully assess impacts, consider real alternatives, or adequately respond to public and agency input.
- **Ignores SHPD Concerns:** Key feedback from SHPD — to include more stories, survey more land, and protect sacred sites — was disregarded.

- **Doesn't Consider Alternatives:** The Army only evaluated options that keep them on the land, ignoring community-led or conservation-based stewardship models.

Trust and Kuleana:

The State has a duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural and natural resources. Accepting this FEIS would continue a legacy of military harm, ignore expert recommendations, and betray public trust. In alignment with your own staff's recommendation, I urge you to **reject the Army's FEIS.**

As you are aware, your fiduciary duty is to the people's of Hawai'i and you are required by law to make decisions that are in the best interest of us, our lands, waters, and natural resources— not to the United States Military and their missions of “national security” or “war readiness.” Stand for the ‘āina, for iwi kūpuna, and for the future of Hawai'i.

**In Truth and Kuleana,**

Vincent V. Huynh

Honolulu, Democratic Socialists of O'ahu

**From:** [Debi Javar](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] REJECT ARMY FEIS ON O'AHU LANDS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:16:59 PM

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I TOTALLY REJECT the army's FEIS for the O'ahu lands that they are currently using. I strongly ask that you also REJECT the FEIS.

The army has No clear plans, NO accountability and No safeguards in place just to name a few.

DLNR MUST MĀLAMA the 'āina, and Not allow the military to continue to desecrate our very precious and very limited island space. Mahalo for your time and energy in protecting our 'āina and people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Debra M Javar

South Kona, HI and part time resident of O'ahu.



**From:** [T Jenkins](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D - 1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:15:06 PM

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*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is Tammy Jenkins, and I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,  
Tammy Jenkins*

## **Agenda Item D-1 – Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Mālialani Kana'iaupuni and I am a member of Ka Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu. I am writing to urge you to reject the Army's Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua. This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

### **Environmental and Health Hazards**

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaihoa-Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### **Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability**

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### **Failure to Consider Alternatives**

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands. Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Mālialani Kana'iaupuni  
Ka Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu

**From:** [Sheala Karratti-Humphries](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04:47 PM

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*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is Sheala Karratti-Humphries and I urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*The Army and U.S. Military as a whole has shown us—Hawai'i and the world—time and time again that they fail to protect local communities and natural resources. This FEIS does not adequately address remediation plans to the lands leased by the state, nor the impacts their occupation and training exercises have on the community and environment itself.*

*To show how much the U.S. military invests in care of land and water, all one needs to do is look at the on-going battle with the U.S. Navy and the Red Hill aquifer. Or Kaho'olawe. Or Sherwoods. Or any other place they have occupied.*

*We are not separate from this Earth. What affects our 'āina and wai affects us. Please uphold your trust, responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina, wai, and our future. Reject the FEIS. This is our home, let's mālama Hawai'i together.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration,*

*Sheala Karratti-Humphries*

**From:** [Kourtney Kawano](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony on Final EIS for Army's land retention  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:02:37 PM

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Aloha e Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

These places are not just a piece of land—they are wahi pana, sacred and beloved places that hold the stories and legacy of Kanaka ʻŌiwi. They are sacred burial sites, endangered species habitats, and the birth stands of generational families. Decades of misuse to ʻāina occupied by the Army has proven that they are not capable of being the stewards of these significant wahi pana.

Additionally, the military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with the intention of conservation, upholding cultural integrity, and aloha ʻāina. Enough is enough.

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

1. Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
2. Lack of a sufficient disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands
3. Restrictive cultural access policies hindering Kānaka Maoli cultural practices and access to numerous historical and sacred sites
4. The approval of the EIS ultimately conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty to mālama ʻāina

I urge the members of the land board to respect the land, the culture, and the people of Hawaiʻi by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation. It is time to release military hold on these lands, and allow their generational caretakers to begin the healing process to ensure future generations of Hawaiʻi residents can live sustainably and ethically on this land. It is a privilege to live here, and it is one that Kanaka ʻŌiwi and Indigenous allies have a right to protect and steward. Please make a pono decision; your rejection of the Army's FEIS will impact the livelihood of today's generation and those of our children and our children's children.

Sincerely,  
Kourtney Kawano  
Nānākuli resident

**From:** [Nikhil Khurana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Direct Opposition to Acceptance of the Army's O'ahu  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:55:12 PM

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Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in direct opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

Your own Land Division staff and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) found that this FEIS fails to meet legal standards under HAR § 11-200.1-28(b)(2) and must be rejected. This is more than a technical issue — it reflects an ongoing pattern of harm and disregard for 'āina, culture, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities.

Why the FEIS Must Be Rejected:

1. No Baseline Data:

DLNR staff confirmed that key environmental and cultural data is missing. Without it, neither the Board nor the public can understand the full impacts — putting ecosystems, species, sacred sites, and watersheds at risk.

2. Incomplete Cultural Review:

The Army's Cultural Impact Assessment ignored significant mo'olelo like Kelea, Lā'ikanaka, and Pa'ahana. These stories are connected to the affected lands and deserve inclusion. The exclusion reflects a failure to engage Native Hawaiian knowledge and protocols with integrity.

3. Major Areas Unsurveyed:

Large areas of KTA, MMR, and Poamoho remain unsurveyed — possibly containing iwi kūpuna, wahi pana, and unrecorded cultural sites. Failing to survey these areas puts them in danger.

4. Ignores Future Harm:

Though framed as "administrative," the FEIS lays the groundwork for continued warfighting activities. It fails to assess cumulative and long-term impacts, dismissing potential harm rather than addressing it.

Legal Grounds for Rejection:

Lacks Required Information: Baseline data is missing, making the FEIS legally and ethically insufficient.

Fails Chapter 343 Standards: It does not fully assess impacts, consider real alternatives, or adequately respond to public and agency input.

Ignores SHPD Concerns: Key feedback from SHPD — to include more stories, survey more land, and protect sacred sites — was disregarded.

Doesn't Consider Alternatives: The Army only evaluated options that keep them on the land, ignoring community-led or conservation-based stewardship models.

Trust and Kuleana:

The State has a duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural and natural resources. Accepting this FEIS would continue a legacy of military harm, ignore expert recommendations, and betray public trust. In alignment with your own staff's recommendation, I urge you to reject the Army's FEIS.

As you are aware, your fiduciary duty is to the people's of Hawai'i and you are required by law to make decisions that are in the best interest of us, our lands, waters, and natural resources—not to the United States Military and their missions of "national security" or "war readiness."

"Stand for the 'āina, for iwi kūpuna, and for the future of Hawai'i.

In Truth and Kuleana,

Nikhil Khurana

**From:** [Jacob Kimura](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Army's Final Environmental Impact State Pn O'ahu Leased Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:37:11 PM

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Aloha mai,

This email is in regards to asking the Board of Land and Natural Resources to reject the United States of America's Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement, for the reason of their desecration of land through illegal occupation.

Mahalo,  
Kaikea

**From:** [Brayden Van Kuren](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:33:40 PM

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Aloha nui,

My name is Brayden Van Kuren. I am speaking on behalf of all Native peoples, not just Native Hawaiians. All that came before, all that are here now, and all that are to come.

To have the United States Army illegally occupy land, and then rent land out for measly dollars per year, is not only against integrity but against humanity. Morals. Lessons taught to us for generations, gathered by ancestors who have toiled just to find the most efficient, effective, and SUSTAINABLE ways to live in harmony with the land. Once you're out of harmony, the fresh waters stop flowing, the trees stop fruiting, the soul becomes rotten.

The Army's effect on Hawai'i has gone on for too long, and they have only brought destruction. So many streams have dried up. So many native flora and fauna gone within years, while it took millennia for them to evolve. So many cultural historical places and practices lost. They claim to have the "military defenses to protect us", but we would not need protecting if it was not for their ILLEGAL OCCUPATION in the first place.

They do not deserve a place here. They do not deserve to bomb innocent land, animals, plants, or anyone for that matter. They do not deserve to continue their mindless and greedy warfare practices on sacred islands. They do not deserve to have access to our wahi pana, our sacred places. Once you destroy the land, you destroy the people.

Kūla'ila'i, the reef at Mākua beach, is where La'ila'i rose after she descended from the heavens. She is the first woman, the mother of every Hawaiian, hence the name Mākua (Parent). Once a beautiful, bountiful valley filled with songs of gratitude and grace, is now lonely and destitute with only foreign militants as its population. The US military had their war ships out in the water on Mākua bay, shooting 250lbs, 500lbs, and 1,000lbs bombs over the beachgoers and indigenous families who lived there still (nearer the shore). They say you could feel the shockwaves all the way in Lualualei Valley. I work in Lualualei Valley, on MA'O Organic Farms. I hear the bombs from Schofield- just over the mountain of Pūhāwai. I feel the quakes and the cries of the land. I feel the intent of the US Army, and we should have to debate over the fact that they are not welcome here.

Mālama pono,  
Brayden Van Kuren



Robert G. Lee  
98-1775 Halakea St.  
Aiea, HI 96701  
bobleehnl@msn.com  
(808) 486-1488  
June 25, 2025

Chair Dawn Chang and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Support for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Training Land Retention on O'ahu

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the U.S. Army's proposed retention of State of Hawai'i lands at the Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation on the island of O'ahu.

**The Importance of Army Training:** These training areas are essential to the readiness of our armed forces. The diverse terrain and climate of O'ahu provide a realistic environment for preparing soldiers to respond to a wide range of missions, from humanitarian assistance to combat operations. These lands are also critical for joint training with our allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific, enhancing regional security and ensuring interoperability in the face of growing threats.

**Stewardship of Native Plants and Cultural Resources:** The Army has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to environmental and cultural stewardship. Through the O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program (OANRP), the Army has:

- Propagated and outplanted endangered native species such as the Ka'ala loulu (*Pritchardia kaalae*), an endemic palm tree of the Wai'anae Mountains. This effort includes fencing to exclude invasive animals, rat control to protect seeds, and nursery propagation to reintroduce the species into the wild.
- Maintained rare plant nurseries at Schofield Barracks, where thousands of endangered plants are cultivated for restoration projects.
- Protected cultural sites through archaeological surveys and preservation efforts, including the safeguarding of burial sites and coordination with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners.
- Invested over \$12 million annually in natural and cultural resource programs, including seed labs, greenhouses, and community partnerships for outplanting and education.

These efforts reflect a deep respect for the 'āina and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i.

**Strategic Importance for Regional Security** The Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua areas are not only vital for U.S. military preparedness but also serve as key locations for multinational training exercises. These lands support the development of combat-credible forces and strengthen alliances that are essential to maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the Board to accept the Final EIS. The Army's continued use of these lands is critical for national defense, demonstrates responsible stewardship, and supports the broader mission of regional security and environmental preservation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Lee

**From:** [Marshall Team](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:03:58 PM

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*Ioha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*Hello. I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

Thank you, Lisa in Texas - a Hawaii vacationer.

Sent from Lisa's iPhone

**From:** [Cynthia Maryanoff.mac.pro](mailto:Cynthia.Maryanoff.mac.pro)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:22:08 PM

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Dear **BLNR**

**I submit testimony calling for the BLNR's rejection of the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, and Poamoho.**

**I am asking the BLNR to hold the Army accountable to the law, and to REJECT this flawed FEIS.**

**This FEIS is so replete with deficiencies that the staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) itself have declared it insufficient.**

The public trust doctrine requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources. The BLNR's core responsibility is to protect the interests of the present and future generations of beneficiaries of that trust.

Thankyou for acting responsibly and rejecting the flawed statement.

Mahalo,  
Cynthia Maryanoff

**From:** [Shannon McHenry](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1"  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:44:27 PM

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**Rarely if ever, have I reviewed an FEIS document as poorly prepared as THIS one, submitted by the U.S. Army. It is woefully inadequate and should be rejected.**

**This FEIS is so replete with deficiencies and is shoulder be rejected It's time for the military to do as they say and clean up their messes**

~ Shannon Gallagher.  
Kauai

With love and light~ Shannon

**From:** [Rama McIntosh](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: No Lease Renewal for Army Occupation of Hawai'i Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56:18 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Rama McIntosh, and I am a resident of Hilo, Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition** to renewing the U.S. Army's lease for State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation. I respectfully urge the BLNR to reject the lease renewal and support the return of these lands to the people of Hawai'i, nā Kānaka 'Ōiwi.

The "garbage", left over from training exercises that is not properly cleaned up will make that leased land toxic for thousands of years. The US military admitted they never properly clean up after live fire exercise, which is in direct violation of their leases.

The Army's own Final Environmental Impact Statement confirms what our communities have long known: military control has severely limited cultural access and harmed our ability as Kānaka 'Ōiwi and Hawai'i residents to care for and connect with these places. Despite policies for cultural access, the reality is that access is highly restricted — requiring advance requests, military escorts, and limiting who, when, and where we can go. This prevents us from practicing our traditions, stewarding the land, and teaching future generations. The continued lease would only extend these harms.

I call on the BLNR to prioritize restoration and cleanup of these lands, not further occupation. Please return them to community stewardship so Native Hawaiians and local residents can care for them as our kūpuna intended. The 'āina deserve healing, and our people deserve meaningful access without military barriers.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,  
Rama McIntosh, Hilo, Hawai'i

**From:** [Alex Miller](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaioloa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Rese...  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:41:11 PM

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Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Alex Miller and I am a member of Democratic Socialists of Honolulu. I am writing to urge you to **REJECT** the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaioloa–Poamoho, and Mākua. This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

### **Environmental and Health Hazards**

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaioloa–Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### **Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability**

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### **Failure to Consider Alternatives**

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands. Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Alex Miller  
Democratic Socialists of O'ahu

**From:** [cknaka@aol.com](mailto:cknaka@aol.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:05:32 PM

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Dear Board Members:

Please reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, on the Island of Oahu.

It has come to my attention that podcaster **John Oliver** put out a podcast of an honest history of Hawaii about 10 months ago which has garnered 5 and 1/2 million viewers who now has a more complete understanding of our history. If you have the inclination, I would highly recommend viewing this on YouTube.

The tragedy inflicted upon our native Hawaiians by stealing their lands can be overturned. The future of the next generation can be made brighter. The raising of our working class and the rebuilding of our middle class can begin with your decision. This land is our land. Let us not sacrifice it to simulate wars. Do not renew land leases of our lands. Let this reclaiming of our lands be your legacy. Thank you

PLease REJECT!

Chester Naka, DDS  
Manoa

**From:** [Mary Neudorffer](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D 1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:17:57 PM

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**Please hold the Army accountable to the law, and to REJECT this flawed FEIS.**

**Mary Neudorffer**

**1870 Hoone Rd #821**

**Koloa, HI**

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [1marleyfan77](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item# D1 Reject the army's EIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:01:29 PM

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Aloha,

Item # D 1  
REJECT THE ARMY EIS

The army has not adequately done the following:

Provided data for a baseline to understand the impacts to the natural, historical and cultural resources. The next question would be where is the baseline data to show the effect on the people of this place? The army has incomplete historical and archeological studies, including burials, loi systems and heiau.

The EIS is a legal document which is to assess environmental, cultural and community impacts, consider alternatives and respond to public input. There has been an overwhelming amount of public input that has been ignored on this EIS and the subsequent leases which they wish to have.

Specific to the sites they wish: Kawailoa is an important area for native forest habitats. The fires that the army sets directly affect this area. Kahuku training area, the waterways are polluted with no policies in place.

Mahalo,  
Summer P. Noland

**From:** [ROSELANI OGA](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject U S Army"s FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:16:03 PM

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Please reject the U S Army's FEIS regarding Makua military reservation, Kahuku Training Area & Poamoho! The U S has done so much irreversible damage to our aina and it needs to STOP NOW! ENOUGH ALREADY!!

Roselani Oga

**From:** [Davey Olajos](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pōhakuloa FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04:34 PM

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*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is David Olajos and I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*David Olajos*

*Waikoloa, HI 96738*

**From:** [Zel Rex](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:tm.hawaiipeaceandjustice@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Direct Opposition to Acceptance of the Army's O'ahu Leased Lands FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:02:44 PM

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My name is Ezekiel Owen, and I live in Kaimuki on Oahu.

Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) regarding continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

Your own Land Division staff and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) have identified critical deficiencies in this FEIS, which fail to meet legal standards under HAR § 11-200.1-28(b)(2). This is not just a technical oversight, it reflects an ongoing pattern of harm and disregard for 'āina, culture, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Ezekiel Owen

**From:** [jdot.p](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Army Land grant  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56:54 PM

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My name is Jesse Pascua, I live in 99-1820 Kaahumanu St., Pearl City and I believe the Board of Land and Natural Resources must reject the Army's final EIS for retaining training lands at Kahuhu, Māuka, and Kawaihoa-Poamoho.

That report uses outdated biological studies and fails to include full archeological surveys. It also does not consult with 'Aha Moku kūpuna or protect cultural sites and endangered species. In the shadow of Red Hill, the FEIS forgets to analyze groundwater contamination risks and ignores credible non-military land use alternatives.

To accept this negligent review will likely erode Chapter 343 standards and set precedent that will stain future projects.

The BLNR must reject this review and must require the DOD to update surveys, make good faith consultations, and provide a full alternatives analysis before the thought of reconsideration of the land use proposal.

**From:** [Dylan Pilger](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1 – Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and M...  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:48:10 PM

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Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Dylan Pilger and I am a member of Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu. I am writing to urge you to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued military use of lands at Kahuku, Kawaihoa–Poamoho, and Mākua. This FEIS is incomplete and misleading. It ignores major concerns, minimizes real harms, and fails to meet the standards required under Hawai'i law and your duty to protect public trust lands.

### **Environmental and Health Hazards**

The Army admits unexploded ordnance and possible chemical contamination but refuses to test soil or water. At Mākua, promised Phase 2 testing hasn't been done, and no sampling occurred at Kawaihoa–Poamoho. Risks to health, 'āina, and wai remain unaddressed. Fire danger is also downplayed, despite military-caused wildfires and climate threats. There's no wildfire plan or climate adaptation strategy—issues even the EPA flagged. Most critically, the Army still has no credible cleanup plan, leaving communities to bear the long-term impacts of military damage.

### **Disregard for Culture, Ecosystems, and Accountability**

The FEIS lacks updated cultural site surveys, ignores iwi kūpuna, and offers no clear protocols for cultural access. Community concerns were dismissed, violating cultural rights. Meanwhile, the Army continues training in endangered species habitat without required permits, offering no credible mitigation. Cumulative harms—cultural, ecological, and environmental—are ignored, and like Red Hill, the military evades responsibility and cleanup.

### **Failure to Consider Alternatives**

The Army failed to evaluate meaningful non-military or reduced-use alternatives, despite repeated calls from the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and agency reviewers. Instead, the FEIS focuses solely on maintaining military control, ignoring the potential for restorative uses of these lands. Decommissioning or transition to civilian, cultural, or

conservation use was not seriously explored—undermining the purpose of an environmental review and violating both legal and ethical standards for land stewardship.

This FEIS is not a genuine assessment—it's a justification for continued occupation and degradation of Hawaiian lands. Accepting it would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that environmental law, cultural protections, and public input mean nothing. I urge you to vote no and reject this FEIS for its failure to address contamination, cultural and ecological harm, and for violating the public trust.

Mahalo for your time and for upholding your kuleana to protect our 'āina.

Dylan Pilger

Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu

--

Dylan J.T.K. Pilger, MPH  
Specialization in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health

**From:** [Susan RobertsEmery](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject the Armys' FEIS for Kahuku, Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, and Mākua  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:47:26 PM

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Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

My name is Susan Roberts-Emery, Co-chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, on behalf of our membership we humbly urge BLNR to REJECT the legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Army's retention of lands on O'ahu, particularly Kahuku, Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, and Mākua.

It is essential to note that the Army's FEIS does not analyze all potential impacts, including cumulative and secondary impacts, of all possible land retention options. The FEIS is so replete with deficiencies that even the staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) itself have declared it insufficient to meet the requirements of the law - including the DLNR's water commission, division of aquatic resources, land division, state historic preservation division, division of forestry and wildlife, and office of conservation and coastal lands. This comes after years of repeated recommendations by DLNR staff and others as to what the FEIS needed to include -- which the Army chose to ignore. An acceptance of this faulty FEIS would only legitimize the Army's repeated flaunting of its legal responsibilities, and the hard work of the DLNR and the community to provide it with good faith recommendations and guidance throughout the environmental review process.

We have further concerns which include but are not limited to:

- \* The Army's FEIS inappropriately relies on decades old biological studies and lacks a clear and current baseline of data on native and endangered species. With such incomplete historical biological data and no current comprehensive studies or surveys included in the FEIS, the ability to holistically assess the potential environmental impacts to our native species is severely impacted. As a result, there may be irreversible harm done to our native species, such as the 'ua'u, 'a'o, pueo, 'i'iwi, and 'ope'ape'a, found in the lands considered for "retention." This alone is grounds for rejection of the FEIS.

- \* The Army failed to consult with the 'Aha Moku, its executive director, and several key kūpuna from the relevant moku--after being explicitly told to do so by the DLNR staff. This is also grounds for rejection. Only after the BLNR's non-acceptance decision of the Pōhakuloa FEIS, did the Army initiate a meeting with the 'Aha Moku. However, this meeting was scheduled after the meeting of the publication of the FEIS, thus any consultation provided in this meeting would not be considered as part of the FEIS. Please don't reward the Army's belated and ineffectual attempt to consult the 'Aha Moku by accepting this deficient document.

- \* As highlighted by the disastrous Red Hill Fuel Tank leaks, and the continual discovery of PFAS in groundwater under former and current



military sites, there have been many recent and historical instances of military neglect impacting our precious wai. Notably, the deficient FEIS lacks requested data as to how military activities from the proposed retention scenarios may contaminate ground water. Oil leaks from vehicles or residual unexploded ordinance are just some of the ways that our public trust water resources could be impacted by the Army's activities. The BLNR must remember the harsh lessons of Kapūkākā, and require the Army to provide a full accounting of potential threats to our precious wai - before our history of water contamination repeats itself yet again.

\* By accepting such a shoddy FEIS, the BLNR will make it impossible to carry out its overall mission. Every subsequent applicant required to undergo environmental review before a BLNR action will be able to point to the BLNR's acceptance of this deficient document to excuse their own shortcomings, and future BLNR members may feel pressured to give in to their demands for deference—at the expense of our natural and cultural resources, and the present and future generations who call or will call Hawai'i home.

\* The Army has repeatedly failed to properly consult kūpuna and conduct surveys of historic and cultural resources. Only approximately 19% of the land was subjected to an archeological survey. No consideration was given to any potential unidentified archaeological and cultural sites that were mentioned in Native Hawaiian traditions and are possibly within these unsurveyed lands. Further, there are multiple published stories, including the stories of Kelea, Lō'aikanaka (O'ahunui) and Pa'ahana, that are set within these lands that are not included in the Cultural Impact Assessment. The complete disregard of traditional stories and practices is disrespectful and insulting to Kānaka 'Ōiwi and their ancestral lands.

\* The public trust doctrine requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in looking out for the interests of the present and future generations of beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Kahuku, Kawaiiloa-Poamoho, and Mākua, the BLNR cannot develop a diligent and thorough understanding of what public trust resources may need protecting, regardless of what happens with the leases at issue. The Army must go back and do its homework, so that the BLNR can uphold its own responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

In summation please uphold the integrity of our environmental review and land use laws - do not accept this faulty and legally flawed document. It is time for the Army to return the land to the Hawaiian people.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of our testimony.

Susan Roberts-Emery  
Co-chair Green Party of Hawai'i

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Shannon Rudolph](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] REJECT Item D-1 Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:42:52 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board,

Please reject the inadequate FEIS for Makua, Kahuku & Poamiho Training Ranges for the same reasons that you did for Pohakuloa.

I am a 40+ year resident of Hawai'i and know what a terrible job the military has done as thoughtless stewards of these lands. They have shown total disrespect and left us a hell of a mess to clean up. They do not deserve any further use and should not have these leases extended.

I am ashamed as an American of how Hawai'i lands have been treated in our name.

Please reject this faulty FEIS.

Mahalo,  
Shannon Rudolph - Kona

**From:** [Jubei Sefronio](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Waialeale motorcycle park- kahuku  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:01:12 PM

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Hi my name is Jubei Sefronio. I've been going to kahuku motorcade track sense I was a young kid & im still going there 34 years later but now with my son. We get to enjoy this park as a family thing & keeps a lot of kid out of trouble and off the streets & safe place to ride. Closing/taking the park away for good will definitely have an impact on all the good it doing for the community & will have a lot of negative affects. Kids won't have safe places to ride & keep them safe & out of trouble. This is my testimony to keep the park open for us family & more.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sequoia](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:20:59 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to urge you to reject the Army's FEIS for the Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, and Poamoho.

We trust you in managing our islands' limited and fragile natural and cultural resources, and we appreciate your requiring the Army to treat our land with respect; if they are truly interested in using our land, to at least file a proper FEIS. As the DLNR has reported, the one currently submitted is insufficient and should be rejected.

Many thanks!

Sequoia  
Kalaheo Hawai'i

**From:** [Kathy Shimata](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:19:34 PM

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Aloha BLNR,

My name is Kathy Shimata & I live on Oahu. I have read the DLNR staff report regarding the FEIS submitted by the U.S. Army. The public trust doctrine requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources. The BLNR's core responsibility is to protect the interests of the present and future generations of beneficiaries of that trust. The FEIS is inadequate & should be rejected.

Mahalo for considering my opinion.

Kathy Shimata  
Honolulu. 96822

**From:** [Charles Simmons](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Impact Statement - Army abuse of lease at Poamoho/Ewa Reserve  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:04:10 PM

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Aloha,

I'm writing to offer some insight and an impact statement into the situation regarding the potential renewal of the Army's leases on Oahu.

I've spent countless hours hiking in Ewa Forest Reserve - Poamoho sector. And in my time there, I've come to realize that the US Army takes great advantage of their lease being right across the road that makes up a portion of the Schofield Waikane Trail.

Not only have I encountered dozens of army soldiers illegally camping on the Ewa Forest Reserve side of the boundary over the years, I've also found and been told of many geocaches left by the military for each other to find. I even stumbled across one once with a book in it that only had signatures with ranks attached. I checked my GPS to see if this geocache had been logged for the public and found nothing.

Additionally there are many markers set on forest reserve land that the Army uses for its Land Nav training. I've discussed this with military friends who confirmed that they would venture onto Forest reserve land during their training frequently to locate waypoints.

Just like the abuse that always comes with military property access, Poamoho is no different. It's obvious that the US military does not respect Hawaii or its people and their autonomy. So why would they respect their public lands?

I have long ago lost count of the amount of empty MRE wrappers and other military paraphernalia that I've picked up and properly disposed of because their soldiers can't be bothered to not litter on the area they shouldn't be camping on in the first place.

The reason the EA was lacking is not because there should be no concern. It's because they simply don't care. They always get what they want. They have blocked public access to Hawaii's lands for far too long and it is time that comes to a stop.

I urge you to deny their request for a new lease. They should not be trusted with lands they obviously take advantage of and abuse to start with. They continue to endanger native and endangered species with their actions and play gatekeeper to the outdoors we all have a right to enjoy and use to enrich our lives.

End the bullying. Please. They've proven they can't be trustworthy stewards over and over again. Enough is enough.

- Charles Simmons  
Oahu Resident

**From:** [Stason Skeen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:10:57 PM

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

My name is Stason Kekaimalu Skeen, and I'm writing to urge you to reject the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the continued use of lands on O'ahu.

This document is deeply flawed. It repeats many of the same issues your Board rightly identified in rejecting the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including a lack of proper cultural and biological surveys, failure to meaningfully consult with lineal descendants and cultural practitioners, and unresolved land use compliance concerns. On top of that, this FEIS does not adequately address the impacts to streams and groundwater, nor does it lay out any real plan for land remediation.

To accept this document would send the message that environmental protections, Native Hawaiian rights, and the public trust can be set aside without accountability.

I ask you to stand firm in your kuleana: uphold the mission of your department, honor your responsibilities to the land and to our communities, and defend the laws meant to safeguard Hawai'i's future. Please reject the FEIS.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

With aloha,

Stason Kekaimalu Skeen



# ACTS OF REPENTANCE TASK FORCE

## HAWAII DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mailing Address: 1350 Hunakai Street, Honolulu, HI 96816

Board of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawai'i

The California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at its annual conference earlier this month voted against renewing military land leases and urges rejection of the final Army Environmental Impact Study in regard to Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation.

As we consider this entire planet sacred; we advocate for the planet's complex environs; focusing on **responsible human interaction with a myriad of multilayered eco-systems**. We also advocate for equal access to a healthy environment. **Environmental justice is key**. We support the BLNR, especially its staff and all who share this notion of justice; vanguards for the sake of generations of lives yet to be born.

The history of the indigenous has made it abundantly clear the power of greed and might succeeded in crippling this once sovereign island nation. Commodify and assume supreme power was the battle cry of the new government.

Up until then land was still considered a source of life and not a commodity; wherein the stewardship of land, streams, and coastal marine environs was a given; for the sake of future generations. This is an endeavor requiring endless attention through seasons, moon phases, etc.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has recognized its participation in the overthrow of the nation of Hawaii with regret and today stands ready to walk with the indigenous towards environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Rev. Amy C. Wake

Chair, Acts of Repentance Task Force



**From:** [Maria Walker](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:38:56 PM

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Aloha, Members of the BLNR,

I am writing to you today to strongly urge you to reject the FEIS submitted by the US Army for continued leasing of Makua, Kaiwailoa-Poamoho, and Kuhuku. I know the BLNR's most important duty is to protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for the sake of our current residents and the many generations to come. This is an overarching responsibility to uphold the public trust in our government, that I hope has a powerful effect on your deliberations.

The current FEIS that accompanied the Army's application is poorly prepared and riddled with deficiencies, and Hawai'i DLNR has already declared this FEIS to be insufficient. Our state has had the opportunity for over a hundred years to observe the large impacts of the US military on our environment and our culture. It is very clear that our government cannot allow any use on our lands without very thoroughly examining the potential consequences of those uses, so an FEIS needs to be incredibly comprehensive, far-reaching, and make every commitment possible to protect the aina and our people. Unfortunately, the military in Hawai'i has not shown themselves to be trustworthy in their agreements and commitments or in their ability to mitigate the many negative results of their actions and maneuvers over the years. Therefore, it is not even reasonable to consider any lease renewals on our islands unless there are much greater guardrails in place, including a newly prepared FEIS that is thorough, extensive, and based on verifiable data and publications, and a framework for robust enforcement.

Please act to protect our beloved Hawai'i for our grandchildren by standing firm on ensuring that in all our decisions we first consider our most precious resources: the land, water, and people. Our electorate has put its faith in you to uphold this principle, and to preserve and care for these resources. Mahalo for your careful consideration.

Maria Walker  
1728 Hulu Rd.  
Kapa'a, HI 96746

**From:** [Julie Warech](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item D  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:51:13 PM

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To the Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to item D, the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

These places are not just a piece of land—they are **wahi pana**, sacred and beloved places that hold the stories and legacy of Kānaka Maoli. They are sacred burial sites, endangered species habitats, and the birth stands of generational families. Decades of misuse to 'āina occupied by the Army has proven that they are not capable of being the stewards of these significant wahi pana.

Additionally, the military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with the intention of conservation, upholding cultural integrity, and **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 disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands

Restrictive cultural access policies hindering Kānaka Maoli cultural practices and access to numerous historical and sacred sites

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

False promises: continuing to promise to return land as it was found when the military today is saying it cannot meet those promises as it's "too expensive". The military should need to prove first it can restore lands before an FEIS can even be considered. Reject this FEIS AND order they restore all lands under the original leases before an FEIS can come again.

Failure to account for environmental impacts outside of Hawai'i: in an FEIS, the army must account for all impacts that come as a result of their activities on the land and time again they fail to mention how bombs and white phosphorus tested on these lands are then used to wrec havoc in Gaza. This weapons testing is directly connected to carrying out a genocide, destroying thousands and thousands of lives and destroying the environment. Nothing but further devastation comes from their illegal use of these lands.

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 Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation. It is time to release military hold on these lands, and allow their generational caretakers to begin the healing process.

Sincerely,

Julie Warech  
O'ahu

Best,  
Jules (they/them)

**From:** [JK W](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:42:41 PM

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

My name is Ka'imina'auao Wong, and I am from Kahalu'u on the ko'olau side of this island. My mother, however, is from Wai'anae. She grew up in the shadow of Mākua Valley, and some of her earliest memories are of the ground shaking, the windows rattling, and the terrifying sounds of the military's bombing exercises. For her, and for countless others, the sounds of destruction became a normal part of childhood.

I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.

For my mother's generation, and for mine, the militarization of our home has been an inescapable reality. We are the generations who have been born into the desecration of our 'āina, who have watched our sacred places be fenced off and bombed, and who have been told that this destruction is a necessary price for "security." The Army's latest FEIS for Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku is not just a flawed document; it is an insult. It is a continuation of the legacy of disregard that my mother's generation endured, and that we continue to fight today.

This O'ahu FEIS is riddled with the same arrogance and negligence that led this Board to rightly reject the Pōhakuloa FEIS. The reliance on outdated surveys, the failure to conduct proper stream and cultural surveys, the omission of mo'olelo, the lack of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners—this is a pattern of disrespect. It shows a blatant disregard for your own agency's feedback, for the community's voice, and for Hawai'i's environmental and land use laws.

The Army has failed to provide sufficient information on groundwater contamination, plans for remediation of the lands they have scarred, or how their activities can possibly comply with conservation district and forest reserve regulations. To accept this FEIS would be to send a clear message: that our laws do not matter, that the health of our 'āina and water is negotiable, and that the rights of Kānaka Maoli to practice our culture on our own land can be swept aside.

You sit in a position of immense kuleana. Please, stand with the people of this 'āina. Uphold your sacred trust responsibilities and the very mission of your department. Show the Army that in Hawai'i, the public trust is not for sale and our future is not a bargaining chip.

Reject this FEIS.

Mahalo nui for your time and your service.

Sincerely,

Ka'imina'auao Wong

**From:** [keri.zacher](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:15:14 PM

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*Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,*

*My name is Keri Zacher and I strongly urge you to REJECT the Army's legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.*

*Many of the same concerns the Board raised in its rejection of the Pōhakuloa FEIS — including the lack of cultural and biological surveys, inadequate cultural consultation, and unaddressed land use compliance issues— are found again in this document. This FEIS also fails to address stream impacts, potential groundwater contamination, and necessary land remediation plans.*

*Accepting this FEIS would signal that our environmental laws, the public trust, and Native Hawaiian rights can be disregarded with no consequence.*

*Please uphold your trust responsibilities, the mission of your department, and the laws that protect our 'āina and our future. Reject the FEIS.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,  
Keri Zacher*

**From:** [Amos Zollo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:39:54 PM

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**Hold the Army accountable to the law, and REJECT this flawed FEIS. Thanks,  
Amos Zollo**

**From:** [Donna Ambrose](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:01:46 PM

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Aloha Board of Land & Natural Resources,

I urge you to reject the US Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement pertaining to training locations on Oahu.

The EIS lacks clarity on environmental implications and potential consequences of proposed uses of these precious resources.

Mahalo,  
Donna Ambrose  
Kailua, HI

**From:** [Yeshua Aquino](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Direct Opposition to Acceptance of the Army's O'ahu Leased Lands FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:49:09 PM

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Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in direct opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

Your own Land Division staff and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) found that this FEIS **fails to meet legal standards under HAR § 11-200.1-28(b)(2)** and must be rejected. This is more than a technical issue — it reflects an ongoing pattern of harm and disregard for 'āina, culture, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities.

Why the FEIS Must Be Rejected:

**1. No Baseline Data:**

DLNR staff confirmed that key environmental and cultural data is missing. Without it, neither the Board nor the public can understand the full impacts — putting ecosystems, species, sacred sites, and watersheds at risk.

**2. Incomplete Cultural Review:**

The Army's Cultural Impact Assessment ignored significant mo'olelo like Kelea, Lā'ikanaka, and Pa'ahana. These stories are connected to the affected lands and deserve inclusion. The exclusion reflects a failure to engage Native Hawaiian knowledge and protocols with integrity.

**3. Major Areas Unsurveyed:**

Large areas of KTA, MMR, and Poamoho remain unsurveyed — possibly containing iwi kūpuna, wahi pana, and unrecorded cultural sites. Failing to survey these areas puts them in danger.

**4. Ignores Future Harm:**

Though framed as "administrative," the FEIS lays the groundwork for continued warfighting activities. It fails to assess cumulative and long-term impacts, dismissing potential harm rather than addressing it.

Legal Grounds for Rejection:

**Lacks Required Information:** Baseline data is missing, making the FEIS legally and ethically insufficient.

**Fails Chapter 343 Standards:** It does not fully assess impacts, consider real alternatives, or adequately respond to public and agency input.

**Ignores SHPD Concerns:** Key feedback from SHPD — to include more stories, survey more land, and protect sacred sites — was disregarded.

**Doesn't Consider Alternatives:** The Army only evaluated options that keep them on the land, ignoring community-led or conservation-based stewardship models.

Trust and Kuleana:

The State has a duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural and natural resources. Accepting this FEIS would continue a legacy of military harm, ignore expert recommendations, and betray public trust. In alignment with your own staff's recommendation, I urge you to **reject the Army's FEIS**.

As you are aware, your fiduciary duty is to the people's of Hawai'i and you are required by law to make decisions that are in the best interest of us, our lands, waters, and natural resources— not to the United States Military and their missions of "national security" or "war readiness." Stand for the 'āina, for iwi kūpuna, and for the future of Hawai'i.

**In Truth and Kuleana,**  
Yeshua Ke'anolani Aquino  
[Oahu, Hawaii]  
[Yeshuakaquino@gmail.com](mailto:Yeshuakaquino@gmail.com)





**From:** [Cassandra Chee](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:47:02 PM

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

My name is Cassie Chee and I strongly urge you to REJECT this legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Army's retention of lands on O‘ahu.

Throughout the environmental review process, the Army has inexplicably ignored repeated comments and concerns raised by the Hawai‘i community, including your own DLNR staff. As a result, this document fails to provide the information needed to determine potential impacts to streams, aquifers, native and endangered species, cultural sites, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and other critical public trust resources and constitutional rights. Thankfully, your staff has made the appropriate recommendation to reject the FEIS as insufficient under the law.

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

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands
- None of the 3 training areas provide housing to their service folks; thus decreasing the availability of affordable housing to local residents, and displacing Kānaka Maoli
- Restrictive cultural access policies hindering Kānaka Maoli cultural practices and access to numerous historical and sacred sites

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

These places are not just a piece of land—they are wahi pana, sacred and beloved places that hold the stories and legacy of Kānaka Maoli. They are sacred burial sites, endangered species habitats, and the birth stands of generational families. Decades of misuse to ‘āina occupied by the Army has proven that they are not capable of being the stewards of these significant wahi pana.

Please uphold the integrity of our environmental review and land use laws - \*do not accept\* this faulty and legally flawed document.

Mahalo,

Cassie  
O‘ahu

**From:** [Shaku](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:05:01 PM

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Please REJECT the flawed FEIS given by the US Army, and hold the Army accountable to the law. Protect the environment and our future.

Susan Coan  
4108 Aheae Pl  
Lihue HI 96766

**From:** [Andrea Dias-Machado](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:09:49 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I urge you to REJECT the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of lands on O'ahu.

I am particularly concerned about the lack of any meaningful plan, or commitment, to remediate 'āina the Army has contaminated from decades of live fire training and other activities. **The lack of any such plan forecloses the BLNR's and public's ability to fully understand and ultimately realize the beneficial impacts of the Army's relinquishment of its currently leased lands** - including to our 'āina, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, food security, public health, housing, and economic development. As a result, this FEIS cannot be accepted as complete.

**The need for a remediation plan is also informed by the Department of Defense's long, long history of failed commitments to safeguard and remediate O'ahu's 'āina from toxic contamination.** From the Navy's poisoning of 93,000 residents and our sole source aquifer after multiple [Red Hill fuel spills](#); to the Navy and Army Corps' decade-long failure to remediate the toxic contamination discovered [under Radford High School](#); to the U.S. Marine's refusal to recognize the threat to families and keiki exposed to [toxic lead contamination](#) in the sand, fish, and homes surrounding its Pu'uloa firing range; to the Army's attempt to cover up its use of [depleted uranium at Schofield](#); untold generational harms have been and may continue to be inflicted on this island and its people, due to the Department of Defense's misplaced priorities when it comes to preventing and cleaning up its messes.

Accordingly, a concrete plan and commitment for remediation is essential not only to comply with our environmental review law, but to ensure that lands relinquished by the Army are actually restored in a timely manner.

Please REJECT the FEIS before you today. Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony.

Me ke 'oiai'o,  
Andrea Dias-Machado  
Andrea P. Dias-Machado  
Owner and Principal Consultant  
Huliau Aloha LLC  
[www.huliaualoha.com](http://www.huliaualoha.com)  
(808) 590-7349  
<https://calendly.com/andrea-huliaualoha>



**From:** [Ann Dorsey](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:07:41 PM

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Land Board Members,

I urge you to uphold your duty to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources and your core responsibility to protect the interests of the present and future generations of beneficiaries of that trust. Hold the Army accountable to the law, and to REJECT this flawed FEIS. Department of Land and Natural Resources itself has declared it insufficient.

In addition to the leakage from the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility that's irreversibly damaged the drinking water supply for O'ahu, decades of bombing, live fire exercises, and military training exercises have damaged beyond repair the natural landscape and once pristine environments of thousands of acres on multiple islands.

The military's constant reassurances that they will "clean up" and "restore" the lands they desecrate have been hollow promises.

It is time to say NO to the renewing of land leases at Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Kawailoa-Poamoho, and Makua and also refuse expansion at Barking Sands and the bombing of Ka'ula Island.

Thank you,

Ann Dorsey

**From:** [Ann Dorsey](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:07:15 PM

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Land Board Members:

I urge you to oppose the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at **Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation**, and to urge the land board to reject the Army's EIS.

These places are not just a piece of land—they are sacred and beloved places that hold the stories and legacy of Kānaka Maoli. They are sacred burial sites, endangered species habitats, and the birth stands of generational families. Decades of misuse to 'āina occupied by the Army has proven that they are not capable of being the stewards of these significant places.

Additionally, the military training activities of this scale are simply not compatible with the intention of conservation and upholding cultural integrity. Enough is enough.

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

- Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis
- Lack of a sufficient disclosure of Military activities on leased lands adjacent to federal lands
- None of the 3 training areas provide housing to their service folks; thus decreasing the availability of affordable housing to local residents, and displacing Kānaka Maoli
- Restrictive cultural access policies hindering Kānaka Maoli cultural practices and access to numerous historical and sacred sites
- 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 Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation. It is time to release military hold on these lands, and allow their generational caretakers to begin the healing process.

Sincerely,

Ann Dorsey

**From:** [Phyllis Fong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agrnda itemD-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:23:30 PM

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**NO to the renewing of land leases at Pohakuloa, Kahuku, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Makua. We must also refuse expansion at Barking Sands and the bombing of Ka'ula Island.**

Support for American troops, belief in the importance of national security, rejection of the endless expansion of the U.S. war machine, and protection of our natural environment, cultural resources, and endangered species: are values that can and DO, co-exist.

The U.S. is by far, already the largest exporter of weapons worldwide. We have more military bases in more countries than any other.

**It's time.**

Let's say it together...

**ENOUGH ALREADY.**

Phyllis Fong



**From:** [Phyllis Fong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR agenda item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:21:52 PM

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**Please hold the Army accountable to the law, and to REJECT this flawed FEIS.**

Phyllis Fong, a concerned and outraged citizen

**From:** [James Hughes](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:32:55 PM

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Dear Sirs,

After a review of the DLNR staff report it appears that the US military has shown itself to once again be a bad neighbor.

EIS should not be approved.

Sincerely, James Hughes  
Wailua Homesteads

**From:** [Penny Kaiman-Rayner](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FEIS-Makua, Kahuku, Poamoho  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:38:25 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Please reject the Army's final EIS for the Makua, Kahuku Training area, and Poamoho. We already know they can't be trusted because of the Red Hill disaster. They must submit a FEIS that is truthful and efficient and sufficient.

Rosalie Kaiman-Rayner

**From:** [Momi Kamau](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda items D-2  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:51:52 PM

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The US Army has controlled too much of our precious land for too long without the stewardship required of good tenants. They must be held accountable. The inadequate FEIS demonstrates a lack of respect and partnership and must be rejected. There are many states on the continent with vast land areas that can be used by the army. Our land is limited and is the legacy of future generations. We cannot continue as second class citizens. Reject the proposal stand for Hawaii! Mahalo Momi kamau  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jessica K](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:32:52 PM

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Aloha, I am writing to implore the BLNR reject the Army's FEIS with regards to its continued use of public lands in Mākua Valley, Poamoho, and Kahuku on O'ahu. There is too much evidence that the FEIS is lacking in transparency, and its adherence to state laws seems to be inadequate at best.

Our own state agencies within the DLNR have found that the Army's FEIS has been remiss in addressing local laws which protect our environment and traditional culture and practices, and in some cases has no plans outlining even a basic attempt to come into compliance with our land use laws. For example, there are no status updates for impacts to native and endangered species and what steps are being taken to mitigate those impacts. This is quite upsetting to me, given how fragile our island ecosystem is and how much of our biodiversity has been irreparably damaged by careless recklessness. I dislike the fact that there seem to be no definitive proposals to clean up what mess the Army makes once they hand the keys back over to the state. We are still cleaning up sacred 'āina like Kaho'olawe after years of 'military exercises'.

There are many who claim these military exercises are part of 'national security' and vitally important considering today's geopolitics, and how this will 'increase jobs', but this is no excuse for turning in a report that doesn't even address basic cultural and environmental analyses that the state requires.

As per the United States Constitution, the Tenth Amendment has allowed the state to designate its own environmental and constitutional laws on land that is state and not federal. The Army is a renter, not an owner. It makes sense that its plan should reflect compliance to our laws. In this case, it clearly doesn't and as this is the Final EIS, does not plan to anytime soon.

There simply is too much at stake and risk for us in Hawai'i to just give a rubber stamp to this FEIS. I believe firmly that the BLNR should reject the Army's FEIS in order to uphold its responsibility to protect the land, water, and cultural heritage of Hawaii.

Mahalo for considering my views and your time. Jessica Kuzmier, West Hawai'i Island

**From:** [Jasmine Lua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: No Lease Renewal for Army Occupation of Hawai'i Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:42:18 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jasmine, and I am a Kanaka 'Ōiwi who currently resides in Alameda, California. I am also a remote student of Hawaiian Studies at Windward Community College. I am submitting this testimony as a non-resident of Hawai'i who cares deeply about Indigenous rights, cultural preservation, and environmental protection. I respectfully urge the BLNR to reject the U.S. Army's lease renewal for State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation and support the return of these lands to the people of Hawai'i.

The Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement makes clear that the military's continued presence restricts cultural access and harms the ability of Native Hawaiians to connect with and care for these sacred lands. The access that is offered is burdened by strict conditions: permits, escorts, and limited dates that make it impossible for these communities to fulfill their cultural responsibilities. As someone who believes in justice, I stand in solidarity with the Native Hawaiian community's call for land return, cleanup, and restoration.

I call on the BLNR to prioritize restoration and cleanup of these lands, not further occupation. Please return them to community stewardship so Native Hawaiians and local residents can care for them as our kūpuna intended. The 'āina deserves healing, and our people deserve meaningful access without military barriers.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jasmine Lua  
Alameda, CA 94501

**From:** [Maximus H.](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:05:21 PM

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Dear BLNR,

I'm in support of points made in the DLNR Staff submittal on item D1 and the Staff recommendation to reject the FEIS.

Mahalo,  
- M.H.

**From:** [Wren Patton](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [demsocoahu@gmail.com](mailto:demsocoahu@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject the Army's O'ahu Leased Lands FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:33:23 PM

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Aloha BLNR board members:

I am writing in direct opposition to the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for continued use of state lands at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation (MMR).

We celebrated last month when you rejected the FEIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area because it felt like the winds might finally be shifting away from over-militarization of the 'Āina. Please take this first step in fighting for the future so many of us want: ending military leases and putting land back in Hawaiian hands.

In solidarity,  
Wren Patton, Democratic Socialists of O'ahu  
Honolulu, HI



**From:** [Erin Rutherford](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Take t Army FEIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:25:53 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to urge the BLNR to reject the US Army's FEIS because:

1. The lands have sacred burial sites, cultural sites, endangered species habitats and critical water sources.
2. The Army has failed to conduct full archaeological and cultural surveys of the lands.
3. The FEIS ignores key alternatives (like shorter lease terms or no military use).
4. The Army's use has already caused environmental damage and desecration of sacred lands.
5. These lands should be restored and returned to Native Hawaiian peoples.

**From:** [Joel Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: No Lease Renewal for Army Occupation of Hawai'i Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:48:22 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Joel Schwartz, and I am a resident of Alameda, California. I am submitting this testimony as a non-resident of Hawai'i who cares deeply about Indigenous rights, cultural preservation, and environmental protection. I am writing to respectfully urge the BLNR to reject the renewal of the U.S. Army's lease for State-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho, and Mākua Military Reservation.

The Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement makes clear that the military's continued presence restricts cultural access and harms the ability of Native Hawaiians to connect with and care for these sacred lands. The access that is offered is burdened by strict conditions: permits, escorts, and limited dates that make it impossible for these communities to fulfill their cultural responsibilities. As someone who believes in justice, I stand in solidarity with the Native Hawaiian community's call for land return, cleanup, and restoration.

Please do what is right: reject this lease renewal and support the return of these lands to Native Hawaiian stewardship. The future of Hawai'i's lands and people depends on decisions like this.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joel Schwartz

Alameda, California

**From:** [Michael Shattner](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa Training Area  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:23:10 PM

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Dear BLNR,

I implore you to reject the Army's incomplete and inaccurate FEIS and return these lands, which contain sacred burial sites, cultural sites, endangered species habitats, and critical water sources, to the Native Hawaiian peoples.

Kindly,  
Michael

"Do what is in your heart and you carry in yourself a revolution."  
- Clifford Odets, AWAKE AND SING!

**From:** [Anne Shiparski](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:27:43 PM

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

My name is Anne Shiparski, and I'm writing as a student and community member with deep respect for the land and cultural history of Hawai'i. I'm writing to strongly oppose the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the retention of land on O'ahu, and I respectfully urge you to reject it.

This document shares many of the same shortcomings you previously identified in the Pōhakuloa FEIS, including the lack of comprehensive cultural and biological surveys, minimal community consultation, and unresolved land use violations. Additionally, the FEIS fails to meaningfully address the risks to streams, potential groundwater contamination, and plans for proper land restoration.

Accepting this FEIS would send a troubling message that Hawai'i's environmental protections, public trust obligations, and Native Hawaiian rights are negotiable, or worse, expendable.

I know these lands carry histories and responsibilities beyond the present moment. Please uphold your kuleana to protect Hawai'i's future by rejecting this inadequate FEIS.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,  
Anne Shiparski

**From:** [True](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:23:13 PM

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**Please hold the Army accountable to the law, and REJECT this flawed FEIS.  
Thank you.  
Mary True, 96783**