

I oppose the continued bombing and abuse of land and water of Pohakuloa by the US military.

We have an obligation to future generations to put an end to the military lease of Hawaiian land for the purpose of military artillery testing, and instead work toward conservation and stewardship if we want our lands and waters to be safe for future generations.. We have already seen the destruction of Kahoolawe.

The army's abuse of land is evident in the ammunition that still litters the island. Please, open your eyes and speak for the people of Hawaii and oppose the army's environmental impact statement.

Juvana Soliven

she/her

phone: 808.780.3160

website: www.juvasoliven.com

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

We are testifying to **OPPOSE - Acceptance** of the Final EIS for the Army Training Land Retention at Pohakuloa Training Area.

This EIS is incomplete as key components were omitted or not included, as well as specific alternatives were not fully analyzed, but is needed for BLNR to have an accurate understanding of the impacts of this lease renewal application, and to make an informed decision.

First, Alternative 7 and Alternative 8 need to be fully analyzed as they are possibilities, even though they do not meet the needs of the applicant. Both Alternatives may benefit and be in alignment with DLNR's mission to "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors" and thus should be fully analyzed and presented so that BLNR can make an informed decision regarding the environmental, natural, cultural, water, and historic resources of the property being considered. The stated purpose of this EIS is to provide BLNR the information needed to have a full, accurate, and complete understanding of the impacts of this application, in order make an informed decision, and without full analysis of Alternative 7 and Alternative 8, the EIS is incomplete.

Also missing from this EIS is the cost analysis of restoration of the site back to its original condition. The cost of cleanup and restoration back to the area's original condition is required to understand the current costs to clean up and restore the land, and is also need to understand the impacts of renewing the lease. As mentioned throughout the EIS, there are impacts to biology, water, air, historical and cultural sites, and geography and soils, which an understanding of current costs is needed to inform a decision to renew the lease. If the cost of cleanup and restoration is not included in this EIS, then BLNR is also not able to consider the financial impact of the proposed action, nor the alternatives provided. This limits BLNR's ability to fully understand the impact of this lease renewal application.

Another aspect that is overlooked in this EIS is the impact that "cultural access" has on the Native Hawaiian population. Cultural access in this EIS restricts access to having limitations on when someone may enter the area, where they may go, and having an escort required. There is an impact of these restrictions and requirements that is not analyzed nor

described in this EIS. In a time where mental health is of the utmost importance, limiting a Native Hawaiian's ability to practice their culture fully within the proposed lease area, must be analyzed and included within this EIS. Without this, BLNR is not provided a fully understanding of the cultural impact the lease renewal is requesting, and BLNR is not able to make a fully informed decision.

It is for these reasons that we ask the BLNR to **reject this EIS**, as it is incomplete and missing key analysis to make an informed decision on the lease renewal.

We would also like to add that, while supporters of this lease renewal and acceptance of this EIS may state that renewing the lease is of great benefit to the US Military and is needed, the benefit to the applicant is irrelevant to BLNR's mission, and thus should not hold any value in the decision to renew the lease nor accept the EIS. The decisions to accept the EIS and to renew the lease should be based on the completeness of the EIS and the benefit to BLNR's mission, which the proposed actions of the applicant, as well as the history of the applicant's current use of the land, does not.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

I submit this testimony in opposition to Agenda Item D-1. The Army's failure to include iwi kūpuna and cultural site protections is reason enough to reject this document.

Sent from my iPhone

**Aloha Chair Dawn Chang,
Department of Land and Natural Resources
& Honorable Committee Members**

This comes from my heart and I represent my ancestors that came before me.

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned Kanaka Maoli and steward of this ‘āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR’s kuleana to mālama ‘āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile

ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhakuloa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Jordan Aina

Kailua, O'ahu

Kanaka Maoli

Aloha e Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

*I am a Kanaka ʻŌiwi resident of Oʻahu, and I am writing to strongly urge you to **reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)** submitted by the U.S. Army in support of its proposal to continue occupying 22,750 acres of public trust lands at the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on Hawaiʻi Island.*

*This FEIS **fails to meet the basic requirements of Hawaiʻi’s environmental review laws** and does not provide the public or this Board with the necessary information to make an informed, lawful decision. Rather than addressing the valid concerns raised during the draft review process, the Army’s final document raises additional red flags, evades critical questions, and withholds essential data.*

Several major issues demand immediate rejection of this FEIS:

- **Confirmed toxic contamination** of state lands from lead, arsenic, petroleum compounds, and other munitions constituents—**with no clear plan or commitment for remediation.**
- **Failure to conduct comprehensive soil and groundwater testing**, despite the known risk of contamination spreading through highly permeable soils and shallow aquifers.
- **Lack of transparency**, as the Army refuses to disclose the Standard Operating Procedures it claims are used to limit contamination.
- **Failure to assess human health risks**, particularly for nearby communities and cultural practitioners potentially exposed to contaminated air, soil, and water.
- **No cumulative impact analysis** of the full 132,000-acre PTA operation, artificially narrowing the scope of environmental review.
- **Acknowledged ongoing fire risks**, with more than 1,000 fires caused by military activities since 1975, threatening fragile and endangered species like the Palila.
- **Incomplete greenhouse gas data**, along with unsupported claims about the project’s climate impacts.
- **Disregard for the cultural and spiritual significance of Pōhakuloa**, failing to meet the State’s constitutional responsibility to safeguard Native Hawaiian cultural resources.

*This FEIS **does not meet the legal or ethical standards** required to protect Hawai'i's lands, waters, ecosystems, or communities. Accepting this document would be a disservice to the people of Hawai'i and a threat to future generations. The Army's continued occupation and use of Hawai'i as a Pacific military base—without the consent and against the ongoing wishes of Native Hawaiians—must not be legitimized through a deficient environmental review process.*

*I ask you to **reject this FEIS** and require the Army to conduct a comprehensive, lawful environmental review that includes transparent data, meaningful community engagement, and a credible plan for cleanup and mitigation. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.*

*Me ke aloha 'āina,
Donavan Kamakani Albano*

Testimony in Strong Opposition to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Extension of the Military Lease at Pohakuloa Training Area

Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent and Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal

I, Suzy Aledo, one the People (as seen in the 50 State Constitutions) and a Kanaka O'iwi, sui juris, do present you with this Notice that you and your agents may provide immediate due care.

“Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka ‘Āina I Ka Pono” translated to “The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.” Historically spoken by King Kamehameha III (Kauikeaouli) on January 31, 1843, during **Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea** (Sovereignty Restoration Day). King Kauikeaouli declared this phrase when sovereignty was returned to the Hawaiian Kingdom and a phrase which the State of Hawaii adopted to be its official motto in 1959. [Emphasis Highlighted]

Please take notice that the continued violation of this motto reflects a longstanding injustice committed by the State of Hawai‘i and its agencies. When water is diverted to serve tourism and colonial interests, when sacred lands are leased for profit and desecration, when iwi kūpuna are desecrated, and when cultural and religious practices are stripped away for the sake of economic gain — it is not development, it is dispossession; it is the systematic prioritization of profit over people, desecration over dignity, and exploitation over stewardship.

Please take notice that John Locke, one of the most brilliant legal minds in history explains in his “Two Treatises of Government” that people are born with natural rights to life, liberty, and property. See evidence below:

Section 6. *"The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges every one: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions:*

For men being all the workmanship of one omnipotent, and infinitely wise maker; all the servants of one sovereign master, sent into the world by his order, and about his business; they are his property, whose workmanship they are, made to last during his, not one another's pleasure.

And being furnished with like faculties, sharing all in one community of nature, there cannot be supposed any such subordination among us, that may authorize us to destroy one another, as if we were made for one another's uses, as the inferior ranks of creatures are for ours.

Every one, as he is bound to preserve himself, and not to quit his station wilfully; so by the like reason, when his own preservation comes not in competition, ought he, as much as he can, to preserve the rest of mankind, and may not, unless it be to do justice on an offender, take away, or impair the life, or what tends to the preservation of the life, the liberty, health, limb, or goods of another." [Emphasis Highlighted]

Section 4 - 15. These sections elaborate on what the **state of nature** is and how natural law governs it. Locke also emphasizes that even without government, people have rights and are bound by natural law.

Section 27. *"Though the earth, and all inferior creatures be common to all men, yet every man has a property in his own person: this nobody has any right to but himself.*

The labour of his body and the work of his hands, we may say, are properly his. Whatsoever then he removes out of the state that nature hath provided, and left it in, he hath mixed his labour with, and joined to it something that is his own, and thereby makes it his property.

It being by him removed from the common state nature placed it in, it hath by this labour something annexed to it that excludes the common right of other men.

For this labour being the unquestionable property of the labourer, no man but he can have a right to what that is once joined to, at least where there is enough, and as good left in common for others."

Please take note that, that Natural Law teaches us that we are all equal and should NOT harm each other. Our Natural Rights to Life, Liberty, Health, and Possessions are rights all people inherently possess. The Divine Ownership is that all humans are “the workmanship of God” - not to be subjected to one another’s will. [Emphasis Highlighted]

I submit this strong opposition to the Army’s EIS and proposed land lease extension in Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), as testimony and as a lawful Notice with the aforementioned reference to John Locke’s “Two Treatises of Government” which articulates natural law principles, and remains a foundational source of political legitimacy under Western jurisprudence and natural rights doctrine.

This opposition is grounded in fundamental legal principles, Hawaiian Kingdom law, the Hawaii State Constitution, maxims of law and fiduciary trust duties, international law and treaties, environmental considerations, and documented evidence of the military's adverse impact on global warming. [Emphasis Highlighted]

Violation of Hawaiian Kingdom Law and International Law

Please take note, that the Hawaiian Kingdom was a sovereign nation recognized by international law until its unlawful overthrow in 1893. The continued occupation of Hawaiian lands by the United States, including the PTA, constitutes a breach of international humanitarian law, specifically the Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibit the occupying power from exploiting the resources of the occupied territory for its own benefit. The National Lawyers Guild has condemned the prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian

Islands and called for the United States to comply with international law by administering the laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom during its occupation. nlginternational.org

The Hawaiian Kingdom was, and remains, a sovereign nation under **international law**. Its illegal overthrow in 1893, acknowledged by the **U.S. Apology Resolution (Public Law 103-150)**, does not extinguish its sovereignty or legal continuity.

Under **international humanitarian law**, including:

- The Hague Regulations (1907), Articles 43–55
- The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949)
- Customary international law on belligerent occupation

Breach of Trust Under the Hawaii State Constitution

Please take notice, that Hawaii State Constitution mandates that public lands be held in trust for the benefit of the people. **The Hawaii Supreme Court has ruled that the state has a fiduciary duty to actively manage and protect public trust lands, including those leased to the military. In the case of Clarence Ching and Mary Maxine Kahaulelio v. Suzanne Case, the court found that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) failed to monitor and protect the PTA, allowing it to fall into disrepair and suffer environmental degradation.** [Emphasis Highlighted] [KHON2Honolulu Civil Beat](#)

Maxims of Law

"Nemo dat quod non habet": A fundamental principle of law is that "Nemo dat quod non habet," meaning "No one gives what they do not have." The United States cannot lawfully lease or extend a lease on lands it does not lawfully own or possess. Given the unlawful overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the ongoing occupation, the United States lacks the legal authority to extend the military lease at PTA. [RootsActionnlginternational.org](#)

Cundy v. Lindsay (1878) affirmed that a seller who does not have title cannot confer it to a buyer.

Sovereignty and Lawful Authority (Charles A. Weisman)

49L. That which is against Divine Law is repugnant to society and is void. C.L.M.

Unlawful acts that violate natural rights such as harm to life, liberty, or property - carry no legal authority.

Ownership, Land, and Property Rights (Charles A. Weisman)

70f. He who owns the soil has it even to the sky. *C.L.M.*; *Co. Litt.* 4a.

Use of land — such as for military training or excavation — requires rightful ownership and must not violate native or national title.

74m. The law regards the order of nature. *Co. Litt.* 197b.

Calling a lease legal does not make it so if it violates public trust, land title, or sovereignty.

Fiduciary Obligation and Duty (Charles A. Weisman)

11a. A delegated power cannot be again delegated. 2 *Inst.* 597; *Black's*, 2d. 347; 2 *Bouv.*

Inst. n. 1300. A deputy cannot have (or appoint) a deputy. *Story. Ag.* s. 13; 9 *Coke*, 77; 2 *Bouv. Inst.* n. 1936.

BLNR's authority comes from the Constitution and must be limited to its fiduciary trust obligations.

11b. The derivative power cannot be greater than the original from which it is derived.

Noy, Max.; *Wing. Max.* 66; *Finch, Law*, b. 1, c. 3.

The State acts as trustee of public and ceded lands and cannot lease or damage them for private or military interest without betraying this duty.

Rights, Justice and Equity (Charles A. Weisman)

5b. An agreement induced by fraud cannot stand. *Dig.* 2, 14, 7, s. 9.

Failure to disclose the full environmental, legal, and cultural harm of PTA leasing is itself fraudulent.

36p. Equity suffers not a wrong without a remedy 4 Bouv. Inst. no. 3726.

The BLNR is compelled in equity to correct a known injustice, not perpetuate it. Failure to disclose the full environmental, legal, and cultural harm of PTA leasing is itself fraudulent.

Government and Public Trust

71j. The welfare of the people is the supreme law. *McInerney v. Ervin*, (Fla.) 46 So.2d 458, 463; Bacon, *Max. reg.* 12; 13 *Coke*, 139.

Decisions must benefit the people — not federal agencies, not foreign interests.

Environmental Degradation and Global Warming

Please take notice that the military activities at PTA have caused significant environmental harm, including the contamination of lands with unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, and other hazardous materials. These activities have disrupted native ecosystems and endangered species, such as the Hawaiian hoary bat and the nene goose. Furthermore, military exercises contribute to global warming through the emission of greenhouse gases from vehicles, aircraft, and explosives. The Army's own reports have acknowledged these environmental impacts, yet insufficient measures have been taken to mitigate them. [RootsAction+1Honolulu Civil Beat+1Honolulu Civil Beat+1Will Caron+1](#)

Military activities at PTA, including live-fire training, weapons testing, and resource extraction, have:

- Contaminated soil and groundwater with **depleted uranium**, heavy metals, and unexploded ordnance
- Destroyed native habitats and endangered species (e.g., 'Ōpe 'ape 'a, Nēnē)
- Contributed to **greenhouse gas emissions**, deforestation, and **global warming**

Military emissions globally are a **major unreported source of CO₂**. A 2019 study from Lancaster and Durham Universities found that:

“If the U.S. military were a country, it would rank as the world’s 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases.”

([Source: *Lancaster University*, 2019 – “Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War”])

Failure to Fulfill Lease Obligations

Moreover, please take note that the original lease agreement required the military to remove all live or blank ammunition and waste materials after training exercises. However, inspections have revealed the presence of unexploded ordnance and other debris, indicating non-compliance with lease terms. The Hawaii Supreme Court has ruled that the state must ensure the military fulfills these obligations before considering any lease extension. [Honolulu Civil Beat+2KHON2+2Will Caron+2Honolulu Civil Beat+1KHON2+1](#)

The BLNR has no legal authority to extend or ratify a lease that violates the public trust, the State Constitution, or binding international norms.

Please take final notice, extending the military lease at Pohakuloa Training Area is unlawful, unethical, and detrimental to the environment and the people of Hawai‘i. It perpetuates an illegal occupation, breaches constitutional and fiduciary duties, violates fundamental legal principles, and exacerbates environmental degradation and global warming. I urge the BLNR to reject the proposed lease extension and take immediate action to restore and protect the lands entrusted to the people of Hawai‘i.

Any further degradation of Pōhakuloa lands would represent a continued crime against the ‘āina and its people. I urge you to act with the courage of fiduciary and moral responsibility — and to honor your legal and spiritual obligation to protect the land, water, air, and generations to come.

The proposed military lease extension and the Army’s deficient EIS represent a breach of natural law, international legal standards, public trust obligations under the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and the spiritual and cultural values of this land. [Emphasis Highlighted]

In conclusion, let it be remembered that the **official motto of the State of Hawai‘i**, spoken by **King Kamehameha III** upon the restoration of Hawaiian sovereignty in 1843, is:

“Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka ‘Āina I Ka Pono.”

“The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.”

This is not merely symbolic. It is a directive — a constitutional and moral mandate — for those entrusted with land governance to act with **pono** (righteousness), to restore balance, and to protect the ea — both the life **and** sovereignty — of the ‘āina.

I call upon the Board of Land and Natural Resources to honor this motto in word and action by:

- Rejecting the Army's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),
- Denying the military's lease renewal at Pōhakuloa, and
- Initiating the full restoration of these lands to the people of Hawai'i.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O ka 'Āina I Ka Pono. Let righteousness prevail — for the land, the people, and the generations yet unborn. [Emphasis Highlighted]

Respectfully submitted,

Suzy Aledo

Cc: President Donald Trump

Pam Bondi

Stephen Miller

Supreme Court of the United States

United Nations, Human Rights

Kash Patel

Marco Rubio

Pete Hegseth

Elon Musk

Aloha Board Members,

My name is Dasha Allyn, and I'm writing because I strongly oppose the acceptance of the Final EIS for Pōhakuloa and the renewal of the Army's lease.

Pōhakuloa is a sacred place, rich with culture, history, home to ecosystems you can't find anywhere else. For over 60 years, the military's used it like a war zone. Dropping bombs, starting fires, leaving toxic substances behind like depleted uranium. It's harmed the land and the people who care about it.

How can we trust the promised compliance presented by the EIS when the military has failed again and again to follow the law or honor its commitments? In 2008, the county resolutions demanded an end to live fire and a real cleanup, and those calls were never answered.

The courts already ruled that the State has not protected Pōhakuloa like it should've. This final EIS would only continue the environmental harm and cultural destruction that has been happening for decades. Say no to the lease. It is our responsibility to heal and protect this land.

Mahalo for your time,

Dasha Allyn

Kapa'a, HI, Kaua'i

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Eva Allyn, an High School student from Kaua'i, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Eva Allyn

Kaua'i

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, that living in Hilo my whole life a place I have looked up to. Sitting between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa from a Hilo view it is home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns.

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Catherina Kaulani Amantiad

Waiakea, Hilo, Hawai'i

Aloha:

My name is Scott W. K. Amona; I am a lifelong resident of Honolulu, Hawai'i and a Native Hawaiian filmmaker. I am testifying in STRONG opposition to the Army's Final EIS report, and the BLNR needs to REJECT the Army's Final EIS!

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

The BLNR has a trust duty to reject this EIS. Please do your job and reject it.

Mahalo piha,

Scott W. K. Amona

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Adrienne Antonsen, and as both a resident of Hawai'i and an environmental scientist, I am begging you to please **reject** the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

While working as a native forest restoration technician at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve, which is adjacent to Pōhakuloa Training Area, I was appalled at the incessant bombing I could hear while working in the native plant greenhouse. I was even more appalled to discover that a raging forest fire, which killed hundreds of ancient 'ōhi'a trees and threatened the homes and lives of nearby residents, was the result of grasses igniting from PTA bombing activities that the Army neglected to notify Forest Reserve staff of.

It is reckless beyond belief to continue bombing such a fire prone ecosystem. Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is an invasive grass species that evolved in fire-adapted ecosystems. As such, it grows in a way that **encourages fire**. The grass has invaded immense swathes of land on big island, extending all the way from PTA down to the Kona coastline. And once that grass starts burning it can be nearly impossible to stop. Don't mistake the distance between PTA and major urban areas fool you - high winds and invasive grasses turn a brush fire into a bullet train. By allowing the Army to continue to bomb this tinder box of a landscape, you would basically be giving them permission to repeat the devastation that occurred in 2023 in Lāhainā.

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the Army's lease renewal at Pōhakuloa. You have the opportunity to take a step in the morally just direction, prioritizing the health and safety of Hawai'i over the continued destruction wrought by the U.S. military. **Please do the right thing.**

Sincerely,

Adrienne Antonsen

Research Specialist II

Pacific Center for Molecular Biodiversity

adrienne.k.antonsen@gmail.com

808-699-3005

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Faith Aurello

Hilo, HI, Moku o Keawe

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the ʻāina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Pele Aveau

Oakland CA

Aloha BLNR Members,

I urge you to reject the Final EIS on Pōhakuloa. It's deeply flawed and fails to address serious environmental, cultural, and health concerns, not to mention ethical, moral and spiritual concerns.

- **Pōhakuloa is conservation land.** *Bombing and military pollution are blatantly incompatible with conservation designation. It's common sense.*
- **Endangered species are at risk.** *The EIS barely scratches the surface in protecting Hawaii's unique and vulnerable plants and animals—and future protections are uncertain given ongoing federal rollbacks.*
- **Cultural sites are neglected.** *More than half of Pōhakuloa has never been surveyed for historic or cultural significance. After 80+ years of use, that's unacceptable.*
- **A Ka Pa'akai analysis has not yet been conducted.** *In the September 2000 Hawai'i Supreme Court landmark decision (Ka Pa'akai O Ka 'Aina v Land Use Commission), an analytical framework for addressing the preservation and protection of customary and traditional native practices specific to Hawaiian communities was created and should be required before any military land lease negotiation commences.*
- **Impact zones within the 132,000 acre PTA complex are now inhabitable.** *Military contamination is widespread and unresolved. Over 250,000 acres on Hawai'i Island are impacted by military activity. White phosphorus has been recorded at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), ignoring its long-term environmental consequences: soil contamination, ecosystem damage, and water contamination. Its use violates international law, yet the U.S. Military call themselves "stewards of the land."*
- **Depleted uranium is present—and dangerous.** *In 2007, it was discovered that Depleted Uranium (DU), a radioactive heavy metal had been fired at Pōhakuloa from 1961-1971 for Davy Crockett nuclear weapons system training. The Army has downplayed the amount and risk of DU used at PTA. Medical experts warn it poses serious health hazards, including cancer and genetic damage.*

- **Fire risk is growing.** The military has admitted to starting over 1,200 wildfires at PTA since 1975. Over 72,000 acres of ranch, agriculture, and homestead lands home to livestock, native wildlife and plant species have burned since 2019.
- **State agencies still have unresolved concerns.** DLNR and the Division of Aquatic Resources have noted major gaps in the EIS, from inadequate cultural inventories to ignored aquatic impacts.
- **According to Page 11 of the 32 pages of the DLNR staff executive summary Discussion “The final EIS does not “fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed action,” and that the Board has not been given the “full range of responsible opinion on environmental effects.”** It further states that this issue has been consistently raised since the first draft EIS.
- **The US Military through its live training exercises is creating the energy of killing and the perpetuation of war, conflict and disharmony with the land and its people.** This energy is manifested and imprinted in the center of Hawai‘i Island affecting all residents and visitors and the living planetary system as a whole.

For all these reasons, I ask that you stand for the land, for our health, and for future generations. Please reject this Final EIS. Thank you.

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Principal Contractor
Chamber of Sustainable Commerce

People, Planet, Prosperity
Call/text: 808.445.7606

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
I am writing as a wahine Kanaka Maoli and Kumu Hula, to urge you to reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) submitted by the U.S. Army in support of its proposal to continue occupying 22,750 acres of public trust lands at the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on Hawai'i Island.

This FEIS fails to meet the basic requirements of Hawai'i's environmental review laws and does

not provide the public or this Board with the information needed to make an informed, lawful

decision. Rather than address valid concerns raised during the draft process, the Army's final

document raises more red flags, avoids key questions, and withholds critical data.

Key issues that warrant immediate rejection include:

- Confirmed toxic contamination of state lands from lead, arsenic, petroleum compounds, and other munitions constituents—with no clear plan or commitment for cleanup.

- A failure to conduct comprehensive soil and groundwater testing, despite known risks of contamination spreading through highly permeable soils and shallow aquifers.

- Lack of transparency, as the Army refuses to disclose Standard Operating Procedures it claims limit contamination.

- Failure to assess human health risks, especially for nearby communities and cultural practitioners with potential exposure to contaminated air, soil, and water.

- No cumulative impact analysis of the full 132,000-acre PTA operation, which artificially narrows the scope of environmental review.

- Acknowledged ongoing fire risks, with over 1,000 fires caused by military activities since 1975, threatening fragile species like the Palila.

- Incomplete greenhouse gas data, while making unsupported claims about climate impacts.

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

I ask you to reject this FEIS and require the Army to conduct a full and lawful environmental review, with transparent data, community accountability, and a credible cleanup and mitigation plan.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Leimamohulu O'ahuo Ka'ōhi'alau Azevedo
'Aina Nisenan (Nisenan Lands, Northern California)
Kumu Hula
Ka Pā Hula Kalama o Ka'ōhi'alau

Sent from my iPad

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

My name is Jen Ballou, and I strongly urge you to reject the FEIS in Item D-1.

This document is clearly incomplete and doesn't meet the basic standards required under Hawai'i law. It leaves out cultural and biological surveys, ignores significant environmental and community impacts, and completely sidesteps the Army's responsibility to take a hard look at alternative uses for these lands. Without this critical information, there's no way the BLNR can make an informed decision—let alone uphold your duty under the public trust doctrine.

Pōhakuloa has already suffered decades of harm. Accepting this FEIS would only extend that damage, especially for Native Hawaiian communities who have long borne the brunt of this misuse and desecration. We deserve better than another rubber stamp for continued military occupation and destruction.

Please stand firm in your kuleana to protect Hawai'i's lands, waters, and people. **Reject this deficient FEIS.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jen Ballou

--

Jen Ballou

jen.ballou@gmail.com

Aloha BLNR,

As an agency looking out for Hawaii's Land and Natural Resources, we urge and expect you to reject the latest study submitted by Pohakuloa. It's been too long that we have allowed them to continue toxic war training on sacred land that detrimentally impacts the health and safety of our water and soil, and therefore the sustainability of our residents, agriculture, and Hawaiian culture.

While I have heard of the importance of PTA to military squads for its unique simulation of actual places of war, we must remember that our island is actually a home to an ancient culture, 210,000 residents, endangered fauna and species, and a beloved destination for millions of visitors. YOU MUST PROTECT THIS PLACE. If not you, then who???

It's not right to keep giving the federal government a pass after decades of ignoring and disrespecting locals and natives about environmental and cultural concerns. Stop it now and let them make it right somehow. Clean up the land, let it rest, let natives pray and and recover, and let the US government find other ways and places for war and peace.

With respect, urgency and deep love for Hawaii,

Gloria Baraquio

<http://gloloveyoga.com/>

All things are one...

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Symphony Barnes
Southern California

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned Kanaka Maoli and steward of this 'āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR's kuleana to mālama 'āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for

destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhaku'loa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Lauren Bartels

Kunia, Oahu

8082757523

Titarican@gmail.com

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the ʻāina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Reika Beaty

ʻEwa, Hawaiʻi

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to implore this group that protects our beloved 'āina to reject the Army's EIS for the wahi pana, Pōhakuloa.

During the existing lease, the military has conducted live-fire and bombing in this conservation district; which has resulted in the 20,000 acres alone. This devastation has further depleted critical habitats for native flora and fauna. In this day and age, clean water is crucial and the ongoing contamination affects our water as well as our land. The actions of the United States Army stir up depleted Uranium in the soil, which in turn blows across Hawai'i Nei adversely affecting human health.

In conclusion, the EIS negatively impacts critical habitats, endemic fauna and flora, citizens' health, archaeological sites, and culturally significant sites for our Kanaka Maoli. Please consider my humble request to reject the FEIS.

Sincerely,

Danielle K. Bemonte

Moku O Keawe

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

Pōhakuloa is more than just land—it is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and one of the last remaining subalpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape, rich in spiritual and historical significance for Kānaka ʻŌiwi. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this ʻāina through bombing, contamination with depleted uranium, the ignition of wildfires, and the violation of the original \$1 lease agreement established in 1964.

The Final EIS is deeply flawed and misleading. It fails to adequately address the decades of environmental degradation, cultural harm, and persistent community opposition. It presumes future compliance without accounting for the military's longstanding pattern of neglect, repeated violations of state law, and the failure to honor county resolutions passed in 2008 calling for an end to live-fire training and the cleanup of existing contamination.

The courts have already determined that the State has not fulfilled its duty to protect this land. Approving the Final EIS and renewing the lease without meaningful accountability would not only violate your fiduciary responsibility—it would perpetuate the harm done to a sacred place that should never have been used for military training.

I respectfully urge the Board to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred land deserving of protection and restoration.

Please stand in defense of the ʻāina. Say no to the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Dr. Susanne Bennett

Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Roxy Boggio

Olympia, WA

Roxy Boggio (she/they)

E: roxy.boggio@gmail.com

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

The courts have already ruled that the State has failed to care for this land. Approving this EIS and renewing the lease without proper accountability would not only violate your trust responsibilities, it would enable further desecration of a place that should never have been used for war training in the first place. We can make a difference now and try to maintain what's left of this conservation district. I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

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

*Mahalo nui for your time and consideration, Samantha Briseno-Clarke San Leandro,
California*

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the ʻāina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Zoe Brown

Land of residence: Kauai, HI

PLEASE REJECT THE EIS!!!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bobby Camara <kuabay@hawaiiantel.net>

Subject: Pōhakuloa lease Testimony

Date: May 5, 2025 at 11:45:12 AM HST

To: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Welina mai,

I write IN STRONG OPPOSITION to renewing leases at Pōhakuloa.

Absolutely no way in hell. That ‘āina is a precious part of Hawai‘i. It still holds, despite decades of military abuse, cultural resources of many kinds.

The land has been abused by bombings, wildland fires, by the mining of named Pu‘u, by dumping rubbish, etc. The military issues press releases about the good works they do in preserving endangered species, in mapping cultural sites, etc. All that is PR. It is the kuleana of the State to protect OUR ‘āina. Our Land.

Too, as we saw in December 2022, pele, erupted from Maunaloa approached Pōhakuloa Training Area. Not a smart thing to invest monies at PTA.

Saying that all staff undergoes trainings for Natural and Cultural Resources protection? Good for them, but those trainings amount to a Box that can be checked. “We did the training”. I have been a trainer for the National Park Service, and have been an educator for decades. I’ve witnessed the ineffectiveness of Mandatory Training. People sit there bored, waiting for the coffee and doughnut break. “Trainings” such as those simply do not work, and consequently the land, and our resources suffer.

PLEASE DO NOT renew the leases. Please.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment, and I trust that you will read ALL comments and take them to heart.

Bobby Camara
Kea'au HI

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Chelsea Casem

Kauai, HI

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, My name is Kirra Chase, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kirra Chase

Kauai, Hawaii

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I oppose the U.S. Army's proposal to retain leased lands at Pohakuloa Training Area and request that the Board reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

It's my understanding that Pohakuloa is a wahi puna with Native Hawaiian cultural sites and endangered species. Using the area for live fire and bombing is wholly inappropriate and in no way contributes to the preservation of the land, the flora and fauna and the culture of this area.

Please reject the Army's FEIS and let Pohakuloa heal and flourish.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

Aloha my name is Nana Clemons. As a member of the community, I believe the BLNR has a duty to protect sacred lands. The Army's FEIS is incomplete and fails to consult properly with cultural practitioners. It should not move forward. Please deny the EIS.

Mahalo,

Nana

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

**Sincerely,
Christine Correia**

Kamuela,Hi

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

My name is Rev Steven Costa and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

The public trust doctrine, embodied in our state constitution, requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in protecting the interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Pōhakuloa - all things missing from the FEIS - the BLNR simply lacks the information it needs to even begin upholding these public trust duties. I urge the BLNR to reject this sorely deficient FEIS, as an affront to its responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Ven Rev Steven Costa Archdeacon Episcopal Church Hawaii

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned Kanaka Maoli and steward of this 'āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR's kuleana to mālama 'āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for

destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhaku'loa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

India Maile Cote-Cosme

Makawao, Maui

8087578321

807 paniolo pl

Makawao hi 96768

BLNR Members:

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

The Army has not demonstrated the capability to properly steward this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address degradation in the past, nor mitigation plans to do better in the future.

*Use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about **environmental contamination, safety, critical habitat loss, and impact water sources.***

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Julia Cramer, O'ahu, Hi

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Patricia Cravalho

O'ahu, Hawai'i

Aloha,

I respectfully urge the BLNR to vote NO on Agenda Item D-1. The Army's FEIS is incomplete, evasive, and fails to meet the legal and cultural standards of our state.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sarah Cravalho

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the 'āina. Reject the Final EIS. Stand for the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Yasmeen Dabat

Oahu, HI 96816

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Me ke aloha pumehana,
Aaron Alexander Makana Deal
Ewa Beach, O'ahu*

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Destiny, and I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to the continued lease and use of Pōhakuloa by the U.S. military.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land—it is a sacred place deeply rooted in the cultural, spiritual, and environmental fabric of Hawai'i. The ongoing desecration through bombing, military exercises, and the destruction of native ecosystems dishonors both the land and the people who have lived in balance with it for generations.

This land is home to wahi pana—storied, sacred places that carry the mana of our kūpuna. Each detonation, each round fired, not only scars the 'āina physically but also desecrates the spiritual integrity of a place that should be treated with reverence and aloha. No amount of compensation or “management plans” can restore the cultural harm done by such destruction.

Of even greater urgency is the impact on our water. The aquifer beneath and surrounding Pōhakuloa is part of a fragile and essential hydrological system. It is our source of life—our wai. The contamination of this aquifer through military activity is not just reckless—it is irreversible. Once this precious source of fresh water is polluted, it cannot be undone. And the people of Hawai'i—present and future—will suffer the consequences.

How can we justify risking the health, safety, and cultural heritage of our people for continued military occupation? How can we look our keiki in the eyes and tell them that we allowed this to continue on our watch?

We must protect Pōhakuloa. We must protect our water. And we must protect the right of Native Hawaiians and all residents of Hawai'i to live in a clean, sacred, and safe environment.

I urge you to deny the lease renewal and begin the process of restoring Pōhakuloa to the people and the land.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Destiny Poki'ikaakaokalani Delgado

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, these lands are still being used today in ceremony by native Hawaiians, by kupa 'āina. Our way of life is not extinct, it is not something only found in books and old tales, it is alive and thriving and we are not going to sit idle while the military continues to desecrate lands that are culturally, geographically, and spiritually important.

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

a real process of healing and restoration.

Na‘u me ke aloha ‘āina,

*na M. Leilani DeMello
‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i*

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

My name is Jessica dos Santos, and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing and **reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.**

As a teacher and advocate for justice in Hawai'i, I've seen how our youth struggle to make sense of a future where sacred places like Pōhakuloa continue to be bombed, desecrated, and locked away for military use. This FEIS fails to address the psychological, cultural, and spiritual trauma inflicted on Native Hawaiians and others who seek healing and reconnection with 'āina. It ignores basic requirements: cultural surveys, biological studies, and a genuine consideration of alternative uses for the land.

Please reject this document. The BLNR has a duty under the public trust to protect both the 'āina and the people, not to rubber-stamp more harm for another 65 years.

Accordingly, I urge you to REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

--

Jessica A. dos Santos

Phone: (808) 381-4069

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Keala Doyle

Kaua'i, Hawaii

This email has been sent from a student at Island School.

Aloha mai kakou,

O wau o Sharise Nalani Dudoit. As a native Hawaiian I'm disappointed in the continual harm to Native Hawaiians on our motherland. The FEIS ignores the unique relationship between Native Hawaiians and the 'āina at Pōhakuloa.

I am a concerned citizen writing in opposition to Agenda Item D-1. The Army's failure to consult 'Aha Moku or conduct meaningful analysis of cultural impacts is reason enough to reject the FEIS.

Therefore, I urge you to reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Agenda Item D-1) and uphold your mission, the law, and the rights of the Hawaiian people. Mahalo nui.

Sharise Nalani Dudoit

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Laura Dvorak

Kea'au, HI 96749

Aloha, Honorable Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

My name is Neil Lokahi Edmands, and I submit this testimony in firm opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease. This lease has already inflicted irreversible damage on our 'āina; extending it would perpetuate that destruction and constitute a grave injustice.

Pōhakuloa is a conservation district, a wahi pana, and one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. These ecosystems are extraordinarily rare, and—due to low rainfall and fragile soils—they take centuries to recover, if they recover at all.

Pōhakuloa is also a sacred cultural landscape for Kānaka 'Ōiwi, bearing spiritual and historical significance through wahi pana and heiau. For over 60 years, the military has desecrated this 'āina by bombing it, contaminating it with depleted uranium, and igniting wildfires—clear violations of the original \$1 lease granted in 1964. Renewing this lease would be tantamount to endorsing decades of environmental destruction and cultural desecration, and it would signal the State's continued failure to uphold its legal and moral responsibilities to protect public trust lands and honor the rights of Kānaka 'Ōiwi.

The Final EIS is deeply misleading and blatantly dishonest. It ignores decades of environmental harm, cultural desecration, and community opposition resulting from military activities at Pōhakuloa. It assumes future compliance without addressing the U.S. Army's long record of neglect and its repeated violations of state law and local resolutions—such as the 2008 county resolution calling for an end to live-fire training and meaningful cleanup of contamination.

Hawai'i's courts have already found that the State failed in its duty to protect these lands. Approving the EIS and renewing the lease without accountability would not only breach your trust obligations, it would allow further desecration of a sacred landscape that should never have been used for warfare.

I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range—it is sacred 'āina, and it is time for it to be healed, not destroyed further.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

*Neil Lokahi Edmands
Princeville, Kaua'i*

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

I am a native and have hunted on this land since I young. This place was special to me. It has provided us with food on our table for many years. It was once flourished with green grass and trees. Now 30 years later as I am in my 40s now. I drive pass Pohakuloa and all you see is nothing but dry dirt and nothing to admire. No trees and not even grass. I've watched the nonsense of fences go up and our hunting areas slowly become smaller and limited. We used to be able to hunt every weekend and now the military controls our hunting schedule. We need to keep in mind that we are just an island and that our aina needs to sustain healthy to be able to provide for the living.

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Angelia Elarco

Kamuela, HI

Please reject the Army's Final EIS on Pohakuloa.

Pohakuloa is on Hawaiian land. Using Hawaiian land for U.S. government is desecration.

The U.S. Army is responsible for a measurable damage to Pohakuloa lands and water with no plans for cleanup.

The US Army does not need Pohakuloa for training.

Hawaiians do not and have never consented to the U.S. Army using Hawaii as a base in the Pacific.

The Army admits widespread contamination, but refuses to assess or clean it up.

The Army cannot prove that contamination has not spread into water or ecosystems.

The Army will not share safety procedures or spill data and deletes critical information.

Fires, endangered species, and climate harms are dismissed without evidence.

The EIS Hawaii law by ignoring obvious cumulative impacts.

The BLNR has a trust duty to reject the Army's final EIS.

Please be pono and reject the Army's final EIS regarding Pohakuloa.

Mahalo

Marybeth Fentriss

808-291-1166

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Andrea Fernandez

Kilauea , Hawaii.

Aloha Land Board Members,

My name is Ramsey Fiorello, and I am a science and lo‘i teacher at Hālau Kū Mana Public Charter School. I am writing from Kāne‘ohe, where I was born and raised, to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army’s proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area. I urge the board to reject the Army’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Pōhakuloa is not just federal acreage—**it is a wahi pana, a sacred place**, with deep cultural and ecological significance. As a teacher, I help students understand how our health as people is tied to the health of the land. That lesson becomes difficult when the State allows sacred places like Pōhakuloa to be bombed, burned, and contaminated.

The Army has already damaged this ‘āina—nearly 20,000 acres burned, endangered species threatened, cultural sites at risk—and yet their EIS offers no meaningful plan for mitigation or healing. The ongoing use of live-fire training and bombing is incompatible with the conservation district designation and with the **values we strive to teach our keiki**.

The presence of depleted uranium on the site is especially alarming. These toxic remnants do not stay put—they are carried on the winds and threaten the wellbeing of our island communities. Allowing the Army to continue its use of this land violates not only our sense of aloha ‘āina, but the State’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, as affirmed in *Kahaulelio v. DLNR (2019)*.

Military use of this land is not conservation. It is desecration.

I urge you to stand with Hawai‘i, to stand with the ‘āina, and to reject the Army’s FEIS for Pōhakuloa.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

Ramsey Fiorello

Science & Lo‘i Teacher, Hālau Kū Mana PCS

Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu

Hello Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Felix Freeman

Kapaa, Kauai

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

My name is Sharde Mersberg Freitas, I am Native Hawaiian, and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

The public trust doctrine, embodied in our state constitution, requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in protecting the interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Pōhakuloa - all things missing from the FEIS - the BLNR simply lacks the information it needs to even begin upholding these public trust duties. I urge the BLNR to reject this sorely deficient FEIS, as an affront to its responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

This FEIS disregards clear Hawai'i law, as even DLNR staff repeatedly point out in the staff submittal. The Army is not above the law, and yet they refuse to address basic legal requirements, such as analyzing the environmental and cultural impacts that will take place on federal lands, and completing basic surveys so that a true objective assessment can be made about the impacts of proposed military "retention" of 'āina in Pōhakuloa. Further, as the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

Native Hawaiians have long borne a disproportionate burden in watching Pōhakuloa's sacred 'āina be bombed, poisoned, and desecrated - for generations. The US Congress itself, in the 1993 Apology Resolution, recognized the intrinsic and unique relationship between the well-being of the Hawaiian people and their connection to 'āina. Yet the FEIS fails to account for the deep psychological, spiritual, and physical harms that will continue to be borne by the Native Hawaiian community in particular, should their demands for justice, healing, and reconnection with ancestral (and illegally stolen) 'āina at Pōhakuloa be ignored for another 65 years or longer.

Please uphold the law, and your mission, and reject this incomplete and unlawful document.

Accordingly, I urge you to please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Ke aloha 'āina,

Sharde Mersberg Freitas

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

My name is Emily Gambino and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and REJECT the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

As the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Emily Gambino

As a resident deeply concerned about the future of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, I urge you to reject the Army's FEIS. It fails to address the decades of harm caused at Pōhakuloa and disregards essential legal requirements, like conducting cultural and environmental surveys.

*Kawena Graham | MBA | Certified EXP Mentor | The Agency Team | Brokered by Exp Realty
| RS-83170*

Kawena.Graham@exprealty.com

808-280-1642

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the ʻāina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Nikia Gray,

Kapa'a, Hi

This is my testimony to the U.S. military to STOP bombing Pohakuloa and any Hawaiian land. This is unethical, and creating irreversible damage to the ecosystem. Stop now and protect the land.

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Chloe Hannsz, a high school student on the island of Kauai who understands the importance of protecting Hawaiian land. I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

You see, Pōhakuloa is a conservation district and home to one of the last remaining sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystems on Earth. It is also a sacred cultural landscape that holds spiritual and historical significance for native Hawaiians.

And yet the military has desecrated this 'āina for more than 6 decades. This violation includes bombing, contaminating with depleted uranium, and sparking wildfires. Even youth such as me can recognize how unjust and unfair these acts are. But why is no one doing anything?

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

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

I urge the BLNR to reject the Final EIS and deny the lease renewal. Think about the living creatures that depend on that land for survival in an island chain that is already at such risk of extinction. Think about the cultural significance that this land holds for the people that have been here long before military occupation. Pōhakuloa is not a bombing range. It is sacred, and it is time for it to be healed, not further destroyed.

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Chloe Hannsz

Kauai Island

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

My name is Art Hanson and I strongly urge you to do the right thing, and Reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

The public trust doctrine, embodied in our state constitution, requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in protecting the interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Pōhakuloa - all things missing from the FEIS - the BLNR simply lacks the information it needs to even begin upholding these public trust duties. I strongly urge the BLNR to Reject this sorely deficient FEIS, as an affront to its responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

Accordingly, pl strongly urge you to REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Art Hanson

1815 Briarwood Dr.

Lansing, MI 48917

ahanson47@comcast.net

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the continued military training and bombing at Pōhakuloa on the island of Hawai'i. This practice poses severe environmental, cultural, and health risks that cannot be ignored.

First and foremost, Pōhakuloa is a sacred place, deeply intertwined with the culture, history, and identity of the Native Hawaiian people. The ongoing militarization and destruction of this land disrespect and undermine indigenous rights and cultural preservation. Protecting these sacred sites is not just a matter of cultural respect but a moral imperative that aligns with principles of human dignity and justice.

Additionally, the environmental impact of military activities at Pōhakuloa is profoundly concerning. The unique ecosystems of Hawai'i, home to countless endangered species and fragile habitats, are highly vulnerable to the destructive nature of live-fire exercises and bombings. The toxic remnants of these operations can contaminate the land and water, threatening both biodiversity and public health for generations.

Furthermore, the continued use of Pōhakuloa for military purposes contributes to the escalation of militarization in the Pacific, sending a message that conflicts are resolved through force rather than diplomacy. This is counterproductive to global efforts toward peace and stability, especially as climate change increasingly demands international cooperation and sustainable practices.

For these reasons, I urge you to reconsider the authorization of military training at Pōhakuloa. It is essential to honor the voices of the local communities, protect our natural environment, and move towards a more peaceful, respectful, and just relationship with the land and its people.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I hope you will stand on the side of preservation, respect, and peace.

Sincerely,

Rohs Heck

Aloha-

Please reject the Army's final EIS for the following points;

-Downplay of the environmental risks. They do not account for long term impacts on Hawaii's island's aquifers, endangered plants, animals and protection of cultural resources.

-The air quality is already bad from the prevalence of climate change southerly winds and will surely add to that stress.

-Insufficient acknowledgment of past environmental damage. Refusal to assess or clean up.

-Unresolved conservation district compatibility.

-Disregarded community opposition

Mahalo,

Cheryl Hendrickson

loha e Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and REJECT the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

As the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

*Read/Write Community
Responsible Markets
Maui ESG Project
mauiessgproject.org
808.250.6160*

To whom it may concern,

I write today as a Native Hawaiian who has watched Pōhakuloa suffer under military use for generations. The abuse put upon our 'āina is deeply saddening to me. This FEIS continues the legacy of neglect and violence toward 'āina and must be rejected by the BLNR.

Mahalo for your time,

Mealoha Hooton

Sent from my iPhone

May 6, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Cheryl Ann Hotta,

and I submit this testimony in **firm opposition to the U.S. Army's request to retain leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area**

(PTA). I urge this board to reject the Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and deny the extension of the military lease.

Pōhakuloa is not a barren training ground—

it is a sacred and storied wahi pana, home to Native Hawaiian burials, cultural sites, and irreplaceable ecosystems found nowhere else in the world. Continued bombing, live-fire exercises, and hazardous waste contamination are not compatible with this legacy of stewardship and protection.

The Army's track record speaks for itself:

- Over **20,000 acres have been burned** due to military activity, destroying native habitat and endangered species.
- Cultural sites have been bulldozed, bombed, or left unprotected, despite repeated promises of care.
- There has been **no full accounting or clean-up of depleted uranium**, toxic waste, or long-term environmental damage from decades of use.

The FEIS fails to adequately address the cumulative impacts of military occupation on both the 'āina and the Native Hawaiian people. It prioritizes national defense over **public trust responsibilities**, cultural survival, and ecological health. Our Constitution, our history, and our kuleana demand more.

Enough is enough.

We do not owe the Army continued access to these lands. The Kingdom of Hawai'i was overthrown by military force, and here we are again—

asked to accept more military expansion while our people struggle to access clean water, healthy lands, and safe homes.

Let us not forget: this land is not theirs to use—it is ours to protect.

I respectfully urge you to **deny the lease renewal** and support the return and restoration of Pōhakuloa.

Mahalo for your time and kuleana.

*Cheryl Hotta
Maui, Honolua*

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Ronnie Inagaki, and I am reaching out to request the opportunity to submit a video testimony for your upcoming meeting scheduled for Friday, May 9th, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

I would like to testify on Agenda Item D1, which involves the decision-making regarding the acceptance or non-acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area.

Please let me know the process for submitting a video testimony and if there are any specific guidelines or deadlines I need to adhere to. Also, can I make a pre-recorded video to play during my testimony? Or can I share screen for a short power point presentation?

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration of my input on this important matter.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your response.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ronnie Inagaki

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Mahalo,

Annabelle Le Jeune
O'ahu

As a resident of Hawai'i for ten years, it is so sad to see what the United States has done to these lands. Areas are still being cleaned up from military testing that has been discontinued and all bombing and firing of ammunition needs to be stopped now. Hawaiians are connected to this land and it is painful to watch how the destruction of it affects them.

Please reject the military's environmental impact statement, and end the bombing and firing that is happening in the Hawaiian islands.

Thank you,

Christina Jones

Aloha

I am writing today to strongly oppose any further bombing and desecration at Pohakuloa. I urge you to REJECT the Final EIS on Pohakuloa that is extremely deficient in a number of areas.

- 1. Pohakuloa is classified as a State Conservation District, the highest protected land status. Bombing, shelling and military pollution are not compatible land uses in a conservation district. It's a no brainer! The full extent of military destruction at Pohakuloa has not been thoroughly investigated.*
- 2. The Final EIS inadequately addresses concerns for protection of endangered plant and animal species at Pohakuloa, and with Trump's environmental budget cuts it appears protection of endangered species will be further trashed.*
- 3. The military record of environmental contamination and failed cleanup in Hawaii is staggering. Tens of millions of live rounds from a wide variety of weapons systems have been fired from the lease lands firing points into the Federally seized (not owned) lands of the 51,000 acre impact area. The military didn't even pay 1 cent for the 84,000 acres of Hawaii crown and government lands seized by a Presidential executive order in 1964 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. Our organization has documented 57 present or former military sites on Hawaii island totaling more than 250,000 acres of military contamination. The present PTA commander LTC Timothy Alvarado has the gall to say "We (the military) are stewards of the land." Please list all the various weapon systems fired into the PTA impact area and the number of rounds fired over 80 plus years.*
- 4. The military cultural impacts and environmental assessments are superficial and insufficient. The US military has been bombing and shelling Pohakuloa for more than 80 years, and yet more than half of Pohakuloa hasn't had an assessment survey of cultural and historic sites. What does that tell you?*
- 5. The increasing fire risk at PTA is inadequately addressed. Pohakuloa is a dry windy area in the center of Hawaii Island. The Final EIS says that military bombing and shelling has started 1261 wildfires at PTA since 1975. It also notes that prior to 2012 data is incomplete so the number of fires could actually be higher. The final EIS also says that the wildfire risk will only be increasing in the future due to more and more extremes of climate change. One fire started on PTA in 2022, a year before the Lahaina fire, burned more than 12,000 acres off the base destroying endangered species habitat.*

6. *The Army completely understates the quantity of Depleted Uranium (DU) weapons fired at PTA and the Hazards. The EIS states 400 DU spotting rounds for the Davy Crockett Nuclear weapon system. Army Hawaii Garrison Colonel Howard Killian testified before the Hawaii County Council in 2008, that based on the number of people certified to fire the Davy Crockett weapon system at PTA, TWO THOUSAND DU spotting rounds were fired at PTA. This is after years of denial by the Army that any DU was fired at PTA. It is likely that additional DU penetrating rounds were also fired at PTA. Col. Killian testified that DU was not prohibited from being used in training until 1996. DU has a half life of 4.5 Billion years and when DU metal is hit with high explosives it burns and turns into DU oxide particles that can be carried long distances in the wind. Dr. Lorrin Pang, MD, listed in the top 3% of America's best doctors, who spent 25 years in the Army medical corps has stated that inhaling DU oxide particles is the most deadly form of radiation. It can travel through the lymph system causing various cancers. It also causes birth defects and even genetic damage passed to future generations. Dr. Pang has said that Pohakuloa should be ringed 360 degrees with proper air filters for a full year to really see what toxins are coming off the base.*

7. *DLNR Staff K. Tiger Mills of Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands notes in a letter dated April 30, 2025 (HA 25-173) additional information the Final EIS should address, including —*

A. A response to the Hawaii County Council regarding Resolution 639-08 based upon comments our organization and others raised in the draft EIS process

B. Additional discussion on the rare environmental setting on the high-elevation sub-alpine tropical dryland ecosystem.

C. A complete inventory of archeological sites that have been or may be impacted by military training.

8. *Comments by DLND staff Ryan Okano, Division of Aquatic Resources, April 29,2025 about impacts to aquatic resources that need to be addressed.*

9. *PTA base commander LTC T. Alvarado has refused to participate in public town hall forums on Pohakuloa.*

With aloha,

Maribeth Joy

To the Department of Land and Natural Resources Board,

I am writing today to submit my testimony regarding the above-mentioned area of Pohakuloa located on the Big Island of Hawaii.

This land is of critical use to us as Native Hawaiians. Taken all those years ago and constantly bombarded with chemicals and live ammunition, this land has had no chance to recover. This area is zoned "STATE CONSERVATION" land and should be the highest protected land status. Yet time and time again the army is entrusted to train there, destroy what native structures were there and poison the already threatened aquaporin that sits beneath. Wildfires from the live munitions have burned tens of thousands of acres, threatened and destroyed endangered species, and eradicate the fragile ecosystems that exists there. These ecosystems are found nowhere else in the world. Yet the Army are still allowed to destroy (train) in the area.

I would like to make a statement and also ask a question.

This is an excerpt taken from an article in the Stars and Stripes issue on April 23, 2025. It reads:

"In 2018 a judge in Hawaii ruled that the state officials had failed to ensure the Army maintained the range and protected Hawaiian cultural interests — as required in the lease — in a lawsuit filed by Native Hawaii cultural practitioners. If granted the lease renewal, the Army proposes adopting mitigation measures to counter the findings of significant adverse impact regarding biological resources, Hawaiian cultural practices and environmental justice. Among them would be developing a formal plan for quarterly access to the property for native Hawaiian organizations and others; installing interpretive panels at the installation's cantonment area; negotiating an agreement with the state to allow the Army to monitor wildfires; and researching feasibility of biological controls of an invasive grass."

The Army has failed to provide a plan or action to help repair or remove the above stated harm that has happened on Pohakuloa.

My question is: "WHY HASN'T THE BOARD OF NATURAL LAND AND RESOURCES DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THE INFRACTION TO THE LEASE"?

The board need only to look at its mission statement to understand who they are representatives of. That would be the people of Hawaii.

The lease has/had been broken and like a bad tenet, this lease should NOT BE RENEWED!!

I thank you for your time,

Mrs. Stephanie L. Kaha'i

Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/branches/army/2025-04-23/army-hawaii-pohakuloa-lease-17551639.html>

Source - Stars and Stripes

Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Island of Hawai‘i,

I am oppose to the U.S. Army’s proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to urge the land board to reject the Army’s EIS.

Accountability:

- ***Ensure the military completely restores leased land.***
- ***Provide fair compensation for leased land.***
- ***Provide reasonable access to Native Hawaiians for cultural practices.***
- ***Provide enhancements to the surrounding environment and communities.***

I, Dana Keawe, am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to the renewal of lease for Pohakuloa Military. They have been BAD neighbors and have NOT followed their lease requirements. There are toxic & dangerous uncountable unexploded ordinances ALL OVER the lease lands military training base is located. The military has MISMANGED sacred Pohakuloa lands since day 1, til today.

NO LEASE RENEWAL!!! CLOSE AND SHUT DOWN POHAKULOA MILITARY TRAINING AREA/BASE PERMANENTLY, IMMEDIATELY!!!

MILITARY NEEDS TO CLEAN UP THE TOXIC WASTE AND REMEDIATE ALL THE LEASE LANDS THEY HAVE POLLUTED AND DESECRATED, IMMEDIATELY!!!

Sincerely,

Dana Keawe

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Sage Keller

Kilauea, Kauai

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Marie-Louise der Kinderen

Maui

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Hina Kneubuhl and I am writing to implore the BLNR to reject the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area (agenda item D1).

To give the Army another 65 years to ABUSE Pōhakuloa is to continue a legacy of desecration that we, as Hawai'i who hold the best interest of the land and the people at heart, are actively working to end.

Aside from containing valuable habitat for endangered Hawaiian plants and animals, Pōhakuloa has it's own maui, or life force, that is weakened with each passing year as it is blasted, burned, crushed, shelled, and filled with 'ōpala that the army has never cleaned up, nor does it intend to. Since when is it ok to treat the land like a trash can, leaving behind things like depleted uranium and unexploded ordinance? Why is the renewal of a lease even on the table when the army has proven itself to be a spoiled tenant that leaves huge polluting messes everywhere?!

Of paramount importance, however, and my most urgent concern is the fact that Pōhakuloa sits over a massive aquifer, a huge, dynamic, living water storage that is the result of the Kāne-Kanaloa water cycle. The precious waters that give us life are SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT than violent military training exercises. Just ask yourselves which promotes life? Reject another Red Hill scenario. Act to protect that which gives life! Generations of the future deserve clean water to drink!

It is 2025 and we are living on a burning planet. To continue the desecration of our waters, the destruction of our land, all of which affects our own spirits and diminishes our own life force, is to continue down a suicidal path.

Moreover, the American Army and their installations here are part of the illegal occupation of our islands. They are an arm of the war machine that is backing the wholesale genocide of the Palestinian people. As a Hawai'i, I reject the toxic presence of the military and the weapons companies they are connected to - the most homicidal parts of the capitalist

machine that parade as protection, but bring only death and destruction to multiple places around the globe.

Do we need Pōhakuloa to be one of 750 US military bases in 80 countries around the world? ABSOLUTELY NOT. How does their presence and actions align with your mandate to “conserve, protect, and enhance” the lands in your care?

Lastly, you spit in our face with this dollar lease for 22,750 acres of stolen land. Hawaiians are homeless or moving away because we can't afford to live here, but the government is ok with making a massive home for bombs and destruction for a dollar a year? It defies logic and any semblance of respect for humanity.

I ask that the BLNR reject the EIS. I ask that you choose life, choose clean water, and choose to respect the land and its people.

Mahalo,

Hina Kneubuhl

Aloha, My Name is Lilia Kolo.

I am a Native Hawaiian, born and raised on the Island of Hawai'i. I reject the Army's EIS. I reject any lease renewal on Pohakuloa. Pohakuloa is a sacred place, like many sites in Hawai'i. Though Pohakuloa is home to many rare, native species of plants and animals. It is also known for the ancient history, Pohakuloa holds significant importance with wao akua (godly realm) traditionally ceremonies would be held there (such as Makahiki). For over 70 years now Pohakuloa has been used as a Live-Fire zone. Everytime I pass by Pohakuloa I am reminded of all the damage the U.S military's weapons inflict upon Native Hawaiian Lands. While being forced to inhale all their toxic smells that blows with the wind, it is truly sickening!!! Enough is Enough!! Let Pohakuloa Heal. And Let The Natives take care of their Land. No more Bombing. No more Military. I reject the Pohakuloa lease renewal. Aloha!

To: BLNR (Board of Land and Natural Resources)

Re: Testimony Opposing the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Pōhakuloa Training Area

Submitted via email to: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to **REJECT** the U.S. Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA). The BLNR has both **ample standing** and a **constitutional trust duty** to protect Hawai'i's public trust resources—including land, water, and cultural sites—from irreparable harm. Approving or allowing automatic acceptance of this flawed EIS would be a gross violation of that duty.

The Army's Final EIS is **inadequate and deeply flawed** on multiple levels. It fails to address critical environmental, cultural, and health concerns, and its findings do not comply with Hawai'i state law. The Army has admitted to widespread contamination but offers no comprehensive plan for clean-up or restoration. It cannot guarantee that contaminants have not spread into water systems, nor has it shared complete safety procedures or spill data. Even more concerning, critical environmental information has reportedly been deleted, and the EIS dismisses threats to endangered species and fire risks without sufficient evidence or analysis.

The **cumulative impacts** of military use at PTA—including decades of live-fire training, habitat destruction, toxic waste, and cultural desecration—are downplayed or ignored entirely. The EIS disregards meaningful community opposition and the deep cultural significance of Pōhakuloa as sacred Hawaiian land. It mirrors the same destructive patterns we've seen on Kaho'olawe and Mākuā, where military occupation left permanent scars.

Pōhakuloa is Hawaiian land. Using it for U.S. imperialism, without proper cleanup, consent, or stewardship, is a continued desecration. The Army's proposal presents insufficient alternatives and ultimately positions Hawai'i as a disposable military outpost in the Pacific. Our communities have not consented to this use, and we continue to resist it.

Cultural practitioners, environmental scientists, public health advocates, and many Native Hawaiian organizations have voiced grave concerns. The Final EIS does not meet the standards of Conservation District Use or environmental law. It is, in every sense, inadequate.

I respectfully call on the BLNR to fulfill its kuleana by **formally rejecting the Army's Final EIS** by the May 18 deadline. Choosing "no action" would result in automatic acceptance and a further betrayal of public trust. Protect our 'āina. Protect our future. Reject the EIS.

Mahalo for your time and for standing for the people and lands of Hawai'i.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Nicholle S. L. Konanui

Pāhoa, Puna, Hawai'i

Kanaka 'Ōiwi

May 7, 2025

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

My name is Caitlin Kryss, and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and REJECT the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

As the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

The Army has misused and abused these lands for military testing and live-fire training for 60 years, resulting in well over 1,000 wildfires; destroying endangered species habitat; littering the land with spent munitions, toxic chemicals, and heavy metals - including depleted uranium; and desecrating sacred sites and historic cultural properties, among other impacts.

Furthermore, as a public school teacher, I was horrified when Waimea Middle school students found live grenades in their school garden. Our island is littered with unexploded ordinances that will continue to impact our keiki for generations to come. Clearly the Army cannot safely operate in ways that respect our health, our way of living, and the health of our 'āina, and we have decades of data to provide evidence of the drastic shortcomings of this FEIS. Please do not forget the history of abuse.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Caitlin L. Kryss, M.Ed.

P.O. Box 711687

Mountain View, HI. 96771

(808) 365-4406 cell

May 7, 2025

Chairperson Dawn Chang and the Members of the Board

Board of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawaii

1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board,

As a member of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (GAC), I strongly support the continued use of Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA).

PTA has supported our Hawaii Island economy and community for many many years, providing recycling, environmental rehabilitation of native and rare plants and birds only found at the region, community fairs open to thd public. The Army's presence at PTA supports not just military readiness but a strategic location for training the Pacific military personnel keeping the Pacific region safe. Locally, it means jobs, contracts for local businesses, and consistent support for our economy. In my experience, the Army has shown respect and partnership, supporting local nonprofits, assisting in emergency preparedness and training, and collaborating on responsible land use.

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

Accepting the FEIS is not just about training, it's about continuing a relationship that brings value to our community and reinforces shared responsibility.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

David Kurohara



May 7, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board:

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

As a former active-duty US Marine, I have had the ability to train at PTA during my time in Hawaii and there is no better facility in the State of Hawaii to allow the type of training that PTA can support to prepare our Military for the defense of our country. The ability to train year-round at PTA is essential to maintaining operational readiness and preparing our service members for the complex challenges they face across the Indo-Pacific. The unique terrain, scope, and location of PTA make it irreplaceable for joint exercises, disaster response, and mission-critical coordination.

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

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

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Laine
General Manager/FSO
Hawaiian Telcom Federal & DoD Markets
chris.laine@HTFederal.com

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

My name is Haley Lani, a marine biologist, and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

The public trust doctrine, embodied in our state constitution, requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in protecting the interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Pōhakuloa - all things missing from the FEIS - the BLNR simply lacks the information it needs to even begin upholding these public trust duties. I urge the BLNR to reject this sorely deficient FEIS, as an affront to its responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Haley Lani

Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Island of Hawai'i.

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

. Decision Making Regarding the Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Island of Hawai'i, Tax Map Keys (TMKs) (3): 4-4-015:008; 4-4-016:005; and 7-1-004:007.

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

Accountability:

- ***Ensure the military completely restores leased land.***
- ***Provide fair compensation for leased land.***
- ***Provide reasonable access to Native Hawaiians for cultural practices.***
- ***Provide enhancements to the surrounding environment and communities.***

Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito

Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club

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

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

Accountability:

- ***Ensure the military completely restores leased land.***
- ***Provide fair compensation for leased land.***
- ***Provide reasonable access to Native Hawaiians for cultural practices.***
- ***Provide enhancements to the surrounding environment and communities.***

Lu Ann Lankford-Faborito

Pu'ukū (Treasurer)

Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Hello,

Please reject the Army's final EIS. Clearly, the military can care less about Hawaii's environment and how their actions affect our local citizens, shown from their past incidents.

Thank you

Lee

Testimony to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

RE: Agenda Item D-1 – Pohakuloa Training Area

Submitted by: Shannon K I'i

Date: May 6, 2025

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Shannon I'i and I submit this testimony as a kanaka maoli and cultural practitioner rooted in the values of aloha 'āina, mo'okū'auhau, and kuleana. I stand in firm opposition to Agenda Item D-1 concerning the U.S. Army's continued use of the lands at Pohakuloa.

As a Hawaiian cultural practitioner, I urge the BLNR to reject Agenda Item D-1. The Army has failed to fulfill its legal obligations to properly care for and steward this 'āina. There has been a consistent pattern of neglect, desecration, and misuse impacting wahi pana, cultural sites, and natural ecosystems vital to our identity and survival as a people.

Pōhakuloa is not a barren wasteland. It is a storied landscape, a sacred space, home to iwi kupuna, endangered species, and the echo of our ancestors' footsteps. Continued military occupation and destruction here is a direct assault on our culture, our environment, and our rights.

The Army has not done its legal homework, nor has it demonstrated meaningful consultation or adherence to its fiduciary responsibilities to protect these public lands. Instead, it has chosen to ignore decades of community concern, legal findings, and cultural protocols.

I stand with many who say: enough. Our 'āina is not expendable. Our cultural sites are not collateral damage. And our people's dignity is not for sale.

I respectfully urge the BLNR to uphold its duty to the people of Hawai'i and to our 'āina by rejecting this agenda item. Let this be the moment we turn toward justice and pono stewardship.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Shannon K. I'i

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Reiko Victoria Ka'iulani Ah Quin Lilo, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the 'āina. At the end of the day, she is all we have. We must mālama her. Reject the Final EIS.

*Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Reiko V Lilo*

Ma Waimea o Moku o Keawe

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

My name is _Wailua_Lind_ and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and REJECT the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

As the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Wailua Lind

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha. My name is Joy Loo, I am a native hawaiian woman, wife, mother, grandmother, & great-grandmother. I am a lifelong resident of Hawai'i Island & I urge you as BLNR board members to reject the American Military's EIS. The EIS does not address the environmental & cultural impacts to the area. The Army has not showed themselves to be willing or able to be proper stewards of the land. They display themselves as entitled to the point of being oblivious to the community. The DLNR & the OCCL both found that the military's use of Pōhakuloa is not consistent the conservation land use. Please reject the EIS & never renew the lease for the military to destroy the land & poisin our air & water.

How they treat the land

Is how they treat the people.

Sincerely

Joy A Loo

Aloha,

My name is Tammy Luat-Hueu and I am writing in my testimony on the US military's request to extend their lease of Pōhaku'oa. I believe there is no other choice than to reject the military's request and vote NO to the military lease of Pōhakuloa on Hawai'i island. The reason for this is the DLNR of Hawaii's own mission statement says:

“Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.”

The US military has proven on multiple occasions (Kaho'olawe, Red Hill and Pōhakuloa) that they are not in line with the enhancing, protecting, conserving and managing of Hawai'i's natural, cultural and historical resources. They have done the complete opposite of this. They bomb, desecrate and contaminate Hawai'i's resources. Please do the right thing and vote NO on the extension of the military's lease at Pōhakuloa.

Mahalo,

Tammy Luat-Hueu

210 Keanae Road

Haiku, HI 96708

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Subject: Testimony Opposing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for U.S. Military Use of Pōhakuloa Training Area

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned educator, artist, aunty and steward of this ‘āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR’s kuleana to mālama ‘āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for

destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhaku'loa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Alix Veronica Lunsford

Hau'ula Hawai'i

Hula Practitioner / Educator / Singer-songwriter

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, My name is Makana Mahuna, and I am writing in strong opposition to the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pōhakuloa Training Area and the proposed renewal of the U.S. Army's lease.

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Makana Mahuna

Waimea, Moku o Keawe

Aloha

As a Native Hawaiian and concerned citizen, I implore you to reject the Pohakuloa EIS. I believe the EIS is biased towards the army in its report.

I also believe Dawn Chang should excuse herself from any discussion and vote on this matter due to her previous involvement with Group 70 and the development on Maunakea.

O wau iho no

Toni Mallow

Sent from my iPad

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned malahini and steward of this ‘āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

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2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhakuloa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Goose Manganaro

Kula, Maui

[8089001169](tel:8089001169)

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Subject: Testimony Opposing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for U.S. Military Use of Pōhakuloa Training Area

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned Kanaka Maoli and steward of this ‘āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR’s kuleana to mālama ‘āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for

destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhaku'loa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Judith Hokuokalani Torres Rayala

Lacey, WA (currently)

Born and raised in Oahu, HI (Waipahu)

Kanaka Maoli

5545 55th Loop SE

Olympia, WA 98513

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

My name is Lisa and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing and reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

This FEIS disregards clear Hawai'i law, as even DLNR staff repeatedly point out in the staff submittal. The Army is not above the law, and yet they refuse to address basic legal requirements, such as analyzing the environmental and cultural impacts that will take place on federal lands, and completing basic surveys so that a true objective assessment can be made about the impacts of proposed military "retention" of 'āina in Pōhakuloa.

Please uphold the law, and your mission, and reject this incomplete and unlawful document.

Accordingly, I urge you to please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you. - Lisa in Texas (a Hawaii vacationer).

Sent from Lisa's iPhone

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

My name is Doris Segal Matsunaga. I live in Waimea on Hawaii Island, and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and REJECT the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

As the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Doris Segal Matsunaga

Waimea, Hawai'i

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned Kanaka Maoli and steward of this 'āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR's kuleana to mālama 'āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for

destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhaku'loa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Megan Kalala Medeiros

Papa'ikou, Hawaii

Kanaka Maoli / Cultural Practitioner/ Mama of 6

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

My name is Lori Mendez. I am an environmentalist and understand the intimate, reciprocal and important relationship between the 'āina and the Moana – The life force of all humans, and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, provide the deep respect that is warranted and deserved for this land, and REJECT the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

As the DLNR staff submittal makes clear, the FEIS fails to include needed biological and archaeological surveys, turns a blind eye to environmental impacts on federal lands, and downplays obviously significant threats to endangered native birds and wildlife - among many other issues. Accepting this dangerously deficient document may accordingly result in actions that threaten the permanent and inadvertent loss of native species, iwi kūpuna, and historic properties, among other deep and immeasurable harms to the public interest.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lori Mendez, MAS-MBC (SIO-2018)

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Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

Please stand for the ʻāina. Reject the Final EIS.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kapuaonaona Mersberg

Mānoa, Oʻahu

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

*My name is Debbie Millikan and I respectfully urge you to **reject the insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.***

Native Hawaiians have long borne a disproportionate burden in watching Pōhakuloa's sacred 'āina be bombed, poisoned, and desecrated - for generations. The US Congress itself, in the 1993 Apology Resolution, recognized the intrinsic and unique relationship between the well-being of the Hawaiian people and their connection to 'āina. Yet the FEIS fails to account for the deep psychological, spiritual, and physical harms that will continue to be borne by the Native Hawaiian community in particular, should their demands for justice, healing, and reconnection with ancestral (and illegally stolen) 'āina at Pōhakuloa be ignored for another 65 years or longer.

Please reject this FEIS, to ensure that the Army fully accounts for the harms it has and will continue to inflict with its "retention" proposal, including to the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

*Sincerely,
Debbie Millikan*

Honolulu, HI



Hunt Development Group
737 Bishop St., Suite 2750
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-585-7900

May 06, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board:

As divisional President for Hunt Development Group Hawaii, I am writing in full support of the U.S. Army's request to retain training lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Steven W. Colón
President, Hawaii Region

Steven W. Colón
115 Kaapuni Drive
Kailua, HI 96734
808-265-5243

May 06, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board:

As a private citizen of Hawaii, I am writing in full support of the U.S. Army's request to retain training lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

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

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

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

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Colón

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Pam Murphy

Kauai

To: The Land and Natural Resources Board

From: Momi Naughton, Ph.D.

Date: May 6, 2025

RE: Pōhakuloa FEIS opposition

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION of the Army's Pōhakuloa FEIS and the continued use of the area by the military.

Although I am a cultural anthropologist, I will not address the cultural significance of this area in this letter as I believe other will in their testimonies. Rather, I would like to relay an experience I had in 1978 that has me questioning the toxins used and coverups by the military at Pōhakuloa.

My first-hand experience: In the 1970s and before, there were rumors that the Army was testing "nerve gas" at Pōhakuloa on herds of feral goats. Keeping that in mind, in 1978 as I was driving Saddle Road from Waimea to Hilo to do monthly shopping, I noticed what looked like a crop duster flying low and spraying fluid between the highway and Mauna Loa. In those days you could pull over off the side of the road and there was no fencing. I pulled off the road and was the only person/car within my visual field. I began taking photos of the plane.

Suddenly, there was a screech of wheels and out of nowhere I was surrounded by several vehicles and about ten M.P.s got out and started questioning me about why I was taking photos. They said they were going to confiscate my camera. When I questioned why, they then said that they were only going to take the film out of the camera. I said, rightly, that I had my son's first birthday photos on the roll of film. After walking away to discuss the situation, they said that I could keep the film. BTW I still have those slides. It was a very intimidating experience for me.

I have not been able to ascertain what was being tested or used on the Saddle between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, but my experience does indicate that the Military has not been upfront on what chemical were and are being used at Pōhakuloa and why it was necessary to stop and intimidate me.

Water safety: As was noted in the state study in 2023, the geological understanding of our aquifers is problematic. "The hydrogeological framework of Hawai'i Island is not as well-known as that of other islands." (Island of Hawai'i Hydrologic Unit 8161, State of Hawai'i, December 2023).

I fear we will have another Red Hill water situation as the aquifer under Pōhakuloa is, no doubt, polluted after decades of training. We know, too, that in April and May of 1967 sarin gas was tested in the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve.

Camp Tarawa: We are still discovering unexploded ordnance after the closing of Camp Tarawa post WW II in Waimea. In 1954, two Parker Ranch employees died and three men were severely injured by a 60 mm mortar projectile while digging a fence post in the Keamuku area. As the

population grows in Waimea and development continues, more unexploded ordnance will, no doubt, be found.

I know when the owner of Parker Ranch, Richard Smart, initially leased the area of Pōhakuloa after WW II, it was to keep military training out of Waimea since Camp Tarawa had caused great disruption to the local population during the war. The Honoka‘a Heritage Center, that I was the director of prior to retirement from UH, has oral histories and documents that supports my assertion.

The Pōhakuloa Military Training area does not socially or economically benefit the communities of Waimea or Hilo and it's time in Hawai'i that we reassess the need for such a heavy military presence on our islands that's causing pollution of our fragile ecosystem.

Aloha,

I strongly oppose the army's proposed retention of leased lands at the Pōhakuloa Training area.

It is the BLNR's duty to protect our natural resources, and this proposal is antithetical towards this end.

Chief among the egregious effects of the army's usage of these lands is the burning of some 20,000 acres of what is designated critical habitat.

The environmental damage, both short term and long term (exposure to uranium and other toxic materials), warrants a cessation of this lease altogether.

Let us stand together and Mālama 'Āina.

Mahalo for listening,

Lorraine Newman

Kilauea, Kauai

Aloha Land Board Members,

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

Pōhakuloa is more than a piece of land—it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to meaningfully address these concerns. However, other organizations like the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) have taken up the responsibility to restore the health of the land, ocean, and people.

Meanwhile, the Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This has increased degradation of the land, erosion of soil, and has increased the amount of silt that enters the water. Consequently, the ocean lacks the abundance of life that it was once known for. This is unacceptable. People are paying the price for this tangibly and intangibly. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water.

Compare this with the on-going efforts the PKO and KIRC have committed to. Further keep in mind that the State of Hawai'i has a Constitutional Obligation to preserve its land. Who is upholding the State's responsibility?

We are all well aware of what the military uses its land for. However, as a military child with Native Hawaiian ancestry who lived on Schofield, I can tell you that military training activities of this scale are simply incompatible with conservation, cultural integrity, or aloha 'āina. I have seen, heard, and experienced the effects of military training: endangered birds being shot continuously because firing targets will not be relocated from established nests and the common fires that blaze across the mountain ridge because of accidental gun

misshots. These are two emblematic stories of the military's dedication to Hawai'i and to correcting wrongs committed.

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

- 1. Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis*
- 2. Lack of a sufficient plan to mitigate impacts to cultural and natural resources*
- 3. Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation + the State's goal to be environmentally sustainable*
- 4. Lastly, 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, the people and keiki of Hawai'i by rejecting the Army's FEIS for Pōhakuloa. It's time to return these lands back to the people's hands. Together, we can heal and restore a land creating a legacy for future generations to live up to. Together, we can come together and create a better community. I urge the members of this board to help make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Nichols

Nu'uuanu, O'ahu

My name is Valdeane Odachi and I am a resident of the island of Hawai`i.

I'm writing to submit testimony in opposition to the acceptance of the EIS regarding Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Island of Hawai`i, Tax Map Keys (TMKs) (3): 4-4-015:008; 4- 4-016:005; and 7-1-004:007.

Regardless of the outcome of the EIS, and the proposal to have minimum or modified retention, the land continues to be used in opposition to the desires of many indigenous and non-native people of Hawai`i.

I understand this may not be the popular opinion, but I believe the military should be directed to vacate Pohakuloa and begin remediation of the lands used for military practice.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

My name is Calley O'Neill, Waimea on the Big Island, and my ohana and I respectfully urge you to reject the woefully insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

Native Hawaiians have long borne a disproportionate burden in watching Pōhakuloa's sacred 'āina be bombed, poisoned, disrespected, abused, and desecrated - for generations. The US Congress itself, in the 1993 Apology Resolution, recognized the intrinsic and unique relationship between the well-being of the Hawaiian people and their connection to 'āina. Yet the FEIS fails to account for the deep psychological, spiritual, and physical harms that will continue to be borne by the Native Hawaiian community in particular, should their demands for justice, healing, and reconnection with ancestral (and illegally stolen) 'āina at Pōhakuloa be ignored for another 65 years or longer.

We trust that you will please reject this FEIS, to ensure that the Army fully accounts for the harms it has and will continue to inflict with its "retention" proposal, including to the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify and express our grave concerns about the land and our host culture. Enough is enough .

Malama Honua,

Calley

*Calley O'Neill
KONA AIRPORT Mālama 'Āina Mural Artist
PO Box 6571
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743*

Mobile: (808) 987-7003

www.CalleyONeill.com

www.TheRamaExhibition.org

IG @calley_oneill

<https://www.patreon.com/CalleyONeill>

Calley responds to emails weekday evenings. If you wish to reach her sooner, please call or text (808) 987-7003

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Simon Oyama

Kaua'i, Hawaii

Aloha e Chair Chang and commissioners,

I ask that you reject the lease for the military at Pohakuloa. Enough damage has been done and they have only destroyed our previous, scarce land here in Hawai'i.

The military should be mandated to clean the land of it's debris and leave it in somewhat decent condition.

There is so much better use for that land. Let Hawaiians lease it instead.

Mahalo,

Lauren Palakiko

Aloha,

I am a resident of Hawai'i and also a Kanaka Oihi. I am sending this email to testify against the renewal of any leases of PTA and or any other military renewal leases which negatively impacts our island. Intense military activity causes destruction to our unique islands that have a major cultural significance for us Hawaiians. This activity also affects a lot of our native plants and animals that is already very fragile and on the brink of extinction. Hawaii is known to be the the extinction capital of the world and this is not helping with the activity such as helicopter constantly running which is affecting the native Palila bird also target practice and the littering of bullets, bombs, etc that have yet to be cleaned up and most definitely should be. This EIS is invalid and I have made my voice heard and kept track of the progress of this EIS meetings for public input when it took place in Waimea and also Hilo. The result of those meetings were in major opposition of the renewal of any new leases and not in support of an EIS. Mahalo for taking my testimony into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Paleka H.

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

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

The Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. Additionally, the ongoing use of live-fire and bombing in the impact area raises serious concerns about environmental contamination, safety, and long-term degradation of both the land and water. Furthermore, the Army EIS does not provide a sufficient plan for mitigating the environmental and cultural impacts. Given the military's horrendous track record of cleaning up military debris and caring for the site, it is unrealistic to expect the military to comply with the requirements of a conservation district.

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

'O wau nō,

Pua'ala Pascua

Residing in Kea'au ahupua'a, Hawai'i Island

Aloha mai,

I'm writing in defense of common sense, morality and Hawaii's precious resources to urge BLNR to reject the army's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

I hope BLNR stands with aloha aina and care for our future generations by rejecting the army's fraudulent and destructive case.

Mahalo piha,

Zoe Pastorfield-Li



STANFORD CARR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

▪ May 7, 2025

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

Re: Testimony in Support of the Army's Request to Retain the Training Lands at Pōhakuloa (BLNR Meeting 5/9/2025)

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board:

My name is Stanford S Carr, CEO of Stanford Carr Development, LLC. As a board member of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and member of the Chamber of Commerce I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the U.S. Army's request to retain the training lands at Pōhakuloa. The land plays a critical role in national defense, supports the local economy, and is managed with respect for the environment and local cultural practices.

Pōhakuloa offers a unique training environment essential for preparing our military forces for real-world scenarios. Its vast, diverse terrain is critical for large-scale, realistic training exercises that cannot be replicated elsewhere. Retaining this land ensures that our forces remain combat-ready, supporting both local and national security.

The Army has shown a long-term commitment to environmental protection at Pōhakuloa. Through careful planning, conservation efforts, and mitigation strategies, the Army has minimized its environmental footprint while continuing necessary training activities. Protection of endangered species and sensitive ecosystems is a top priority, and ongoing restoration and land management efforts demonstrate the Army's dedication to sustainability.

Pōhakuloa also provides substantial economic benefits to the local community, creating jobs and supporting businesses through contracts, maintenance work, and local services. Additionally, the Army has been an important contributor to local initiatives, including educational and community outreach programs.

The Army has worked closely with the Native Hawaiian community to ensure cultural practices are respected. Through ongoing consultation, the Army has made efforts to minimize impacts on culturally significant sites and to preserve the traditions of local iwi (tribes).

Mahalo,

Stanford S. Carr

Aloha Land Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area. I urge you to REJECT the Army's EIS.

Pōhakuloa is not just a piece of land, is home to irreplaceable Native Hawaiian cultural sites and endangered species. The Army has not demonstrated the capacity or will to serve as a proper steward of this land. To date the Army's use of this has resulted in long-term degradation of both the land and water. Negative impact to the land and water through live-fire and bombing raises serious concerns about environmental contamination and safety.

The FEIS is insufficient and should be rejected. Military training activities of this scale are incompatible with the conservation district designation and approval of the EIS very much conflicts with the BLNR's constitutional duty to protect Hawaiian lands, mālama 'āina.

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

Mahalo,

Gordon Peterson

Princeville, Kauai

No new land leases in Pōhakuloa Hawai'i Island

Regards!

Renee Ku'uleinani Price

808-557-1251

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned Kanaka Maoli and steward of this ‘āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR’s kuleana to mālama ‘āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhaku'loa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

[Kamalu Nahooikaika Reyes]

[Kahului, Maui]

[Kanaka Maoli / Cultural Practitioner]

To:

Chair Dawn Chang

Department of Land and Natural Resources

& Honorable Committee Members

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned steward of this 'āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

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2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is NOW. We MUST act NOW for our future generations. Show your courage and stand up for what is pono. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. Pōhakuloa needs to heal and it is our kuleana to facilitate this healing.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Jean Rodriguez

Honolulu, Hawaii & Puerto Rico

Father, Husband, Friend, Aina warrior, USA Army Vet.

My name is Eric Rulona, a resident in Honolulu, HI and I ask BLNR to reject the army's final environmental impact statement. Stop bombing Pohakuloa. The current situation does not reflect the best interests of the citizens of Hawaii or the United States.

Eric Rulona

Dear BLNR members:

As a lifelong resident of Hawaii, I oppose further bombing and desecration at Pohakuloa. I urge you to please reject the final EIS on Pohakuloa. The final EIS inadequately addresses concerns for the protection of endangered plants and animals. Since ongoing live fire and bombing threaten the native species and cultural resources of the area. Also the military's record of environmental contamination and failed cleanup in Hawaii is unacceptable. The proposed uses of this site are incompatible with the State conservation district, the highest protected land status.

Thank you for your consideration

Janice Toma Shiira

Shimanchu Mamuyaa

To the Board of Land and Natural Resources re: Agenda Item D-1:

The BLNR has a duty to protect public trust resources, not rubber-stamp incomplete federal documents. The Army's FEIS is legally and morally deficient. Please reject it and uphold your responsibility to future generations.

Shannin Solie

Haiku, HI

808 437 6853

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

My name is Cori Sparks and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

The public trust doctrine, embodied in our state constitution, requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in protecting the interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Pōhakuloa - all things missing from the FEIS - the BLNR simply lacks the information it needs to even begin upholding these public trust duties. I urge the BLNR to reject this sorely deficient FEIS, as an affront to its responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

Accordingly, please REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cori Sparks

Kailua resident

To the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I respectfully urge you to do the right thing and reject the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.

The public trust doctrine, embodied in the Hawai'i state constitution, requires the BLNR to exercise due diligence and prudence in managing our natural and cultural resources, and in protecting the interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust. Without cultural surveys, biological opinions, or a good faith assessment of alternative beneficial uses of the long-abused 'āina at Pōhakuloa - all things missing from the FEIS - the BLNR simply lacks the information it needs to even begin upholding these public trust duties. I urge the BLNR to reject this sorely deficient FEIS, as an affront to its responsibilities under our constitution and the public trust.

*Accordingly, you MUST REJECT the FEIS put forward in Agenda Item D-1.
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

Sincerely, A.L. Steiner

Aloha,

The Army's proposed EIS does NOT accurately address the cultural, environmental, and health concerns that would be impacted by the bombing of Pōhakuloa. The community is NOT in support of these actions and REJECTS the use of destructive weapons on the 'āina. Stop ignoring community voices and polluting the land. We ask that you strongly REJECT the EIS proposal as it does not reflect the wishes of the community and does not protect our health or the health of the land.

Mahalo nui

Aloha e Chair Chang and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write today as a concerned steward of this 'āina to urge your firm rejection of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in support of continued military use of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Pōhakuloa is not merely land. It is sacred—a wahi pana rooted in ancestral knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. For over 70 years, this sacred landscape has endured relentless degradation under U.S. military occupation. The submission of this EIS represents not responsible stewardship, but a continuation of the desecration and dispossession of our homeland.

I offer this testimony on behalf of our lāhui to raise four urgent and interconnected concerns:

1. Continued Desecration of Sacred Sites

Pōhakuloa is rich in cultural and spiritual significance, housing ancient trails, heiau, and iwi kūpuna. Military activity has repeatedly bombed and bulldozed these sacred spaces, despite legal and ethical protections. This is a violation not only of Native Hawaiian religious and cultural rights but of the DLNR's kuleana to mālama 'āina.

2. Environmental Irreversibility

The EIS gravely underestimates the environmental damage caused by decades of military activity. The use of live ammunition, chemical contaminants, and heavy artillery has poisoned soil, threatened endangered species, and disrupted fragile ecosystems. No mitigation plan within the EIS adequately restores what has already been lost—let alone justifies further occupation.

3. Illegitimacy of U.S. Military Occupation

The U.S. military presence at Pōhakuloa stems from an illegal overthrow and unlawful annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Therefore, its continued use of Hawaiian lands for destructive military purposes is a direct violation of international law, self-determination, and the political rights of Kanaka Maoli.

4. Failure to Uphold the Public Trust Doctrine

As trustees of the land under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, DLNR is legally bound to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Approving this EIS would be a failure of that trust—permitting further destruction rather than conservation.

In the face of pressure from federal agencies, I implore this committee to stand on the side of justice, pono, and true aloha 'āina. The legacy you leave will be remembered not by your deference to power, but by your courage to protect the most sacred and irreplaceable parts of our homeland.

The time to act is now. Reject this EIS. Return the land to its rightful caretakers. And let the healing of Pōhakuloa begin.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Brandon Fernandez-Thompson

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

808-333-2695

Bthompson7741@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Travis Tsuda

Kaneohe, HI

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

*Aloha nui, my name is Waileia and I respectfully urge you to do the right thing, and **reject** the clearly insufficient FEIS in Item D-1.*

Native Hawaiians have long borne a disproportionate burden in witnessing Pōhakuloa's sacred 'āina be bombed, poisoned, and desecrated - for generations. The US Congress itself, in the 1993 Apology Resolution, recognized the intrinsic and unique relationship between the well-being of the Hawaiian people and their connection to 'āina. Yet the FEIS fails to account for the deep psychological, spiritual, and physical harms that will continue to be borne by the Native Hawaiian community in particular, should their demands for justice, healing, and reconnection with ancestral (and illegally stolen) 'āina at Pōhakuloa be ignored for another 65 years or longer.

Please reject this FEIS, to ensure that the Army fully accounts for the harms it has and will continue to inflict with its "retention" proposal, including to the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Waileia Tupou

Aloha Land Board Members,

I reach out to expostulate my firm opposition to the U.S. Army's proposed retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area, and to implore the land board to reject the Army's EIS. A'ole! A'ole! A'ole! (No!)

Enough is Enough! Native Hawaiians HAD IT! (I'm hailing from Eastern Europe & I am humbled that I can even have a voice on an issue that should strictly be delegated to the inhabitants & owners of these peaceful & beautiful islands, the Native Hawaiians!) However, the Army feels entitled to have more than a voice; they feel entitled to experiment with bombs! Please advise the Army to retreat all their operations immediately & to reconsider a suitable land on their home continental US. How would they feel if their ancestors' bones would be desecrated & endangered flora & fauna like Red-cockaded Woodpecker & White Irisette & Harper's Beauty would be extinct by invaders who first ravished the land & then profaned it?

Pōhakuloa is not a military playground — it is a wahi pana, a sacred and storied place, home to unequaled Native Hawaiian cultural sites and some of Hawai'i's most endangered species. The Army failed over and over to demonstrate that it has the capacity or that it will to serve as a proper steward of this land, and the FEIS fails to genuinely address these concerns.

The Army's actions have already resulted in the burning of nearly 20,000 acres, including designated critical habitat for native flora and fauna. This is egregious. It is conspicuously horrific. Native Hawaiians don't need any more meaningless Resolution Apologies (i.e. 1993, President Clinton's); they need their inherent sovereignty. It's time for cultural resurgence to revitalise health giving relationships with the land and offset multiple loses, irrevocable damages & harms sustained through colonialism, neoliberalism, and climate change. It is time to return these lands to Native Hawaiians and begin a real process of healing and restoration.

Engage the Army in an ethnographic discourse to move towards indigenous-led, decolonized adaptation, and reaffirm the important role Indigenous people play in

responding to climate change and leading social transformation. There are already catastrophic & fatalistic outcomes of climate impacts that are largely misaligned with Native Hawaiian approaches to loss and damage.

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

The EIS is insufficient and should be rejected on all grounds, including:

→ Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

→ Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

→ Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

Sincerely,

Ingrid Vasilescu

Honolulu, Hawai'i

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

E 'olu'olu, do not accept the Army's Final EIS.

The FEIS is unacceptable: Cumulative effects are not addressed; the Army refuses to address widespread contamination and cleanup; critical information is not shared (such as spill data and safety procedures) and endangered species, fire harm and climate harms are wholly dismissed. Why isn't contamination assessed? And cleaned up? Where is accountability?

How deeply saddening this is, to even have the need to submit testimony to share the obvious: Bombing, testing, daily military operations and occupation of this 'āina threatens sacred and critically endangered grounds, cultural practices and traditions, plants, animals and the mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of po'e.

Right now, it is time to stop such a reign of terror upon the 'āina, upon animals, plants, the wai, po'e.

As a member of the BLNR, you, in this moment, can vote to protect the 'āina, natural resources, cultural integrity, varied species and the wai.

E 'olu'olu, stand for the little culture, sacred grounds, species, and wai left.

No ke aloha 'āina,

Karuna Wiese

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PO Box 437422

Kamuela, HI 96743

Aloha BLNR,

It is imperative that you reject the final EIS for new Army leases of State Conservation lands in Pohakuloa. It is imperative that the lands be released back to the State for restoration and conservation and that you comply with your legal obligation to protect Hawaiian lands.

Mahalo,

Lynda Williams

Hilo

I am writing to oppose any further lease and desecration of Pohakuloa by the United States military. These lands are illegally annexed and stolen from the Hawaiian people, and as such the state has no right to lease them. It is the worst form of torture and abuse to those who hold the land sacred to hear the bombs from our houses and to feel the earth shake. How ignorant does a culture/society have to be to bomb the side of an active volcano? Even if you hold no value in the quality of air, water and plant and animal life. Instead of practicing war, the United States should learn the art of peace and study Ho'oponopono ... And give a future to the children of this earth.

Thank you,

Kaleimanu and Alison Yahna

Naalehu, Ka'u

Aloha Land Board Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Inadequate Environmental and Cultural Impact Analysis

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

Concerns about depleted uranium on the site have gone unaddressed

Military usage is incompatible with the conservation district designation

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

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

Sincerely,

Krishna Zane
Hilo, Hawai'i Island