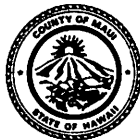


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Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

August 30, 2019

Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

RECEIVED

2019 AUG 30 AM 10: 04

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable Kelly T. King
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair King:

**SUBJECT: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DENY THE DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED
NAVAL TRAINING IN THE WATERS OF MAUI,
MOLOKA`I, AND LANA`I (PAF 19-193)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DENY THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED NAVAL TRAINING IN THE WATERS OF MAUI, MOLOKA`I, AND LANA`I," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keani Rawlins-Fernandez".

KEANI N. W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ
Council Vice-Chair

paf:wac:19-193d

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 19-312

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES DENY THE DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
PROPOSED NAVAL TRAINING IN THE WATERS
OF MAUI, MOLOKA`I, AND LANA`I

WHEREAS, the United States Naval Special Warfare Command has proposed to engage in maritime and air-based training activities in the waters of Maui, Moloka`i, and Lana`i, including harbors and bays, according to its draft Environmental Assessment published in *The Environmental Notice* by the Office of Environmental Quality Control on December 8, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (“DLNR”) is to, “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.”; and

WHEREAS, past military training in and near Maui County has left a legacy of environmental and cultural resource destruction and degradation, such as that seen on the Island of Kaho`olawe, which remains uninhabitable and littered with unexploded ordnances; and

WHEREAS, the proposed training activities would be conducted by the Navy and other components of the Armed Forces in ecologically sensitive regions, including critical habitats for species, such as the Hawaiian monk seal and the Hawaiian false killer whale, protected by the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed training activities would occur within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback National Marine Sanctuary, an important breeding, calving, and nursery area for humpback whales, and utilize active sonar, which is known to be dangerous to marine mammals; and

WHEREAS, the draft Environmental Assessment fails to adequately recognize, consider, or protect traditional cultural practices and excludes

Resolution No. _____

hundreds of historic sites, including numerous fishponds, from the “Area of Potential Effect”; and

WHEREAS, the Navy has not provided sufficient information for the public or Native Hawaiian organizations to review, understand, and respond to the proposed training; and

WHEREAS, there was insufficient public outreach and engagement conducted in Maui County to adequately address concerns raised by the public and local law makers; and

WHEREAS, although the draft Environmental Assessment states that the proposed training “involves minimal use of machinery, equipment, or vehicles,” Maui County’s history with military activities raises justifiable concern about negative environmental and cultural impacts; and

WHEREAS, while acknowledging the importance of military training to the national defense, the Maui County Council believes the values embodied in the Maui County General Plan, including core principles and policies of the Countywide Policy Plan, compel opposition to the proposed training; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Countywide Policy Plan expresses the following core principles:

- “Excellence in the stewardship of the natural environment and cultural resources.”
- “Honor for all cultural traditions and histories.”
- “Consideration of the contributions of past generations as well as the needs of future generations.”; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Countywide Policy Plan establishes the following policies:

- “Protect and restore nearshore reef environments and water quality.”
- “Protect marine resources and valued wildlife.”
- “Preserve and protect natural resources with significant scenic, economic, cultural, environmental, or recreational value.”

Resolution No. _____

- “Recognize the interconnectedness between the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the islands.”; and

WHEREAS, the Council has frequently adopted resolutions requesting the military to reconsider training practices in and near Maui County; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports the conservation of natural resources, the protection of marine life, and the preservation of cultural, traditional, and subsistence activities practiced by residents, all of which would be jeopardized by the proposed training; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to deny the United States Naval Special Warfare Command’s draft Environmental Assessment to engage in maritime and air-based training activities in the waters of Maui, Moloka`i, and Lana`i, including harbors and bays; and
2. That it urges the United States Naval Special Warfare Command withdraw its proposal to engage in maritime and air-based training activities in the waters of Maui, Moloka`i, and Lana`i, including all harbors and bays; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy; General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs; the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator; the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono, United States Senator; the Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, Member of Congress; Julie M. Zimmerman, Senior National Environmental Policy Act Planner, United States Special Warfare Command; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawai`i; the Honorable Joey Manahan, President, Hawai`i State Association of Counties; Suzanne Case, Chair, State Department of Land and Natural Resources; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

Resolution No. _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. D. M.', is written above a horizontal line.

Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

paf:wac:19-193e