

Resolution

No. 25-172

SUPPORTING HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 234-25 AND URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I TO REQUEST THE MILITARY TO CEASE BOMBING AT THE PŌHAKULOA TRAINING AREA; FOLLOW ALL LEGAL PROCESSES AND REJECT ANY NEW LAND AGREEMENTS UNTIL ALL LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS ARE APPROVED, REJECT ANY LAND SWAP AND NEW LEASE PROPOSALS; REJECT EMINENT DOMAIN ACTIONS; AND CONDUCT A KA PA'AKAI ANALYSIS ON THE PŌHAKULOA TRAINING AREA

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Council adopted Resolution 234-25 to urge the State of Hawai'i to ensure the health and safety of Hawai'i Island residents by:

- requesting the military to cease all bombing and desecration activities at the Pōhakuloa Training Area;
- rejecting land swaps and lease unless stipulations are established to address comprehensive cleanup, restoration, and bioremediation at the Pōhakuloa Training Area; and
- conducting a full Ka Pa'akai analysis of the Pōhakuloa Training Area to ensure the protection of Native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources; and

WHEREAS, military activities at the Pōhakuloa Training Area, including use of certain munitions and training practices, have been alleged to cause environmental contamination, cultural site desecration, wildfire risk, and other harms that materially affect the health, safety, cultural practices, and livelihoods of Native Hawaiian communities and other residents; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2025, the State Board of Land and Natural Resources voted not to accept the United States Army's Final Environmental Impact Statement for its retention of the Pōhakuloa Training Area, citing inadequate data and analysis of endangered biological resources, an incomplete inventory of archaeological sites, and insufficient consultation with Native Hawaiian stakeholders for the cultural impact assessment; and

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WHEREAS, on July 31, 2025, the United States Army issued its Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Statement for land retention at the Pōhakuloa Training Area, formally selecting its preferred alternative to retain approximately 19,700 acres for continued military use, despite widespread opposition from community members, cultural practitioners, and the May 9, 2025, BLNR decision; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Supreme Court has recognized the State's constitutional obligation to inspect, monitor, and protect public trust and Native Hawaiian rights where State actions affect cultural, historical, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Ka Pa'akai analysis is an established legal and procedural framework to evaluate impacts on traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights and to ensure that decisions affecting valued cultural, historical, and natural resources comply with the State's obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Council previously demonstrated intercounty solidarity on environmental and public health issues by adopting Resolution 22-5, FD1, which urged the United States Navy to permanently remove and relocate the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility underground storage tanks located at Kapūkākī, O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maui and the entire State are bound by a shared kuleana to protect land, water, cultural sites, and public health, guided by the Aloha Spirit and the State's trust responsibilities to Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that actions taken at Pōhakuloa Training Area directly implicate the health, safety, and cultural wellbeing of Hawai'i Island residents and may have implications for the broader island chain; now, therefore,

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

1. That it supports Hawai'i County Council Resolution 234-25 and urging the State of Hawai'i to request the military to cease bombing at the Pōhakuloa Training Area; follow all legal processes and reject any new land agreements until all reviews are approved, reject any land swap and new lease

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and new lease proposals; reject eminent domain actions; and conduct a Ka Pa'akai analysis on the Pōhakuloa Training Area; and

2. That it urges the State of Hawai'i to coordinate with the County of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian organizations, affected community groups, and appropriate State and federal agencies to ensure that any remediation, monitoring, or protective measures are transparent, enforceable, and responsive to community-identified needs and cultural protocols; and
3. That it urges the State of Hawai'i to prioritize health, safety, cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship, and to act consistent with the Aloha Spirit and the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i when evaluating any military activities and land transactions that affect Native Hawaiian rights, cultural sites, natural resources, or public health; and
4. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature; Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson, State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources; Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command; the Honorable C. Kimo Alameda, Mayor, County of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:


KEANI N. W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ