



# Welcome to the EIS Scoping Virtual Open House

## What is Public Scoping?

Public scoping is conducted early in the process, in compliance with NEPA and HEPA, to provide the public opportunity to inform the Army of known issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

Public scoping allows the public to:

- Learn about the Proposed Action.
- Offer promising alternatives.
- Explain potential concerns.
- Recommend potential impacts that should be studied.

Scoping materials and other information about the Proposed Action are available on the project website at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS>.

## What to Expect after Scoping?

After the public scoping period has ended, the Army will consider all public input and incorporate substantive public input into the development of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be made available for public review for at least 45 days. The Army will again consider all public input and incorporate substantive public input into development of the Final EIS. The Army's decision will be documented in a Record of Decision made available to the public no sooner than 30 days following publication of the Final EIS.

Your input is valuable!

## Options to Submit Written Comments

Comment period is September 4 - October 14, 2020

- EIS website: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS>
- Email: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)
- Mail: ATLR PTA EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444

## EIS Scoping Virtual Open House

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 4 p.m.

During the Virtual Open House you can:

- View online presentations at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS>.
- Call (808) 300-0220 to submit oral comments from 4 – 9 p.m. (only on Wednesday, September 23).
- \* ***Please Read: Comment submittal through the EIS website is preferred. All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted. Please do not submit duplicate comments. Comments should be written clearly, as commenters will not be contacted to provide clarification. Personal contact information will not be published in the Draft or Final EIS. Personal contact information will be maintained for the project record and will not be released unless required by law.***



# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)

## NEPA

- NEPA is a U.S. law implemented via Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1500–1508.
- NEPA procedures ensure environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made, and before actions are taken.
- The Proposed Action is a federally funded action.

## HEPA

- HEPA refers to the State EIS process: Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343, and Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200.1.
- HEPA establishes a system of environmental reviews to guide decision making.
- The Proposed Action includes State-owned land and will comply with HEPA processes.



Natural resource management at PTA  
Photo Credit: PTA/M. Donnelly

The EIS will be a joint NEPA-HEPA document. Both public involvement processes will run concurrently.

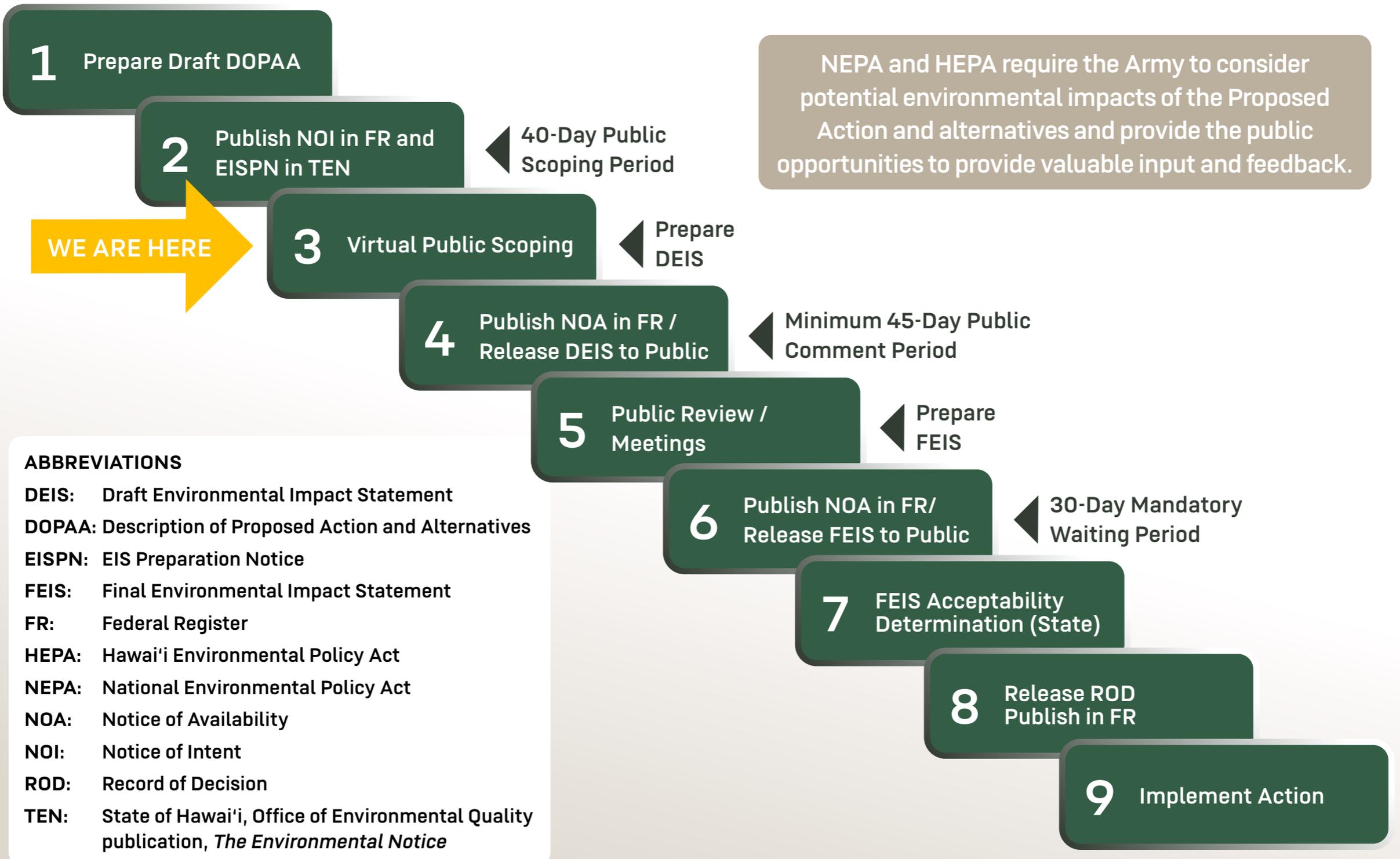
## NEPA/HEPA

Public involvement is a key component of the NEPA and HEPA processes. Opportunities include:

- A 40-day public scoping period for NEPA NOI and HEPA EIS Preparation Notice.
- EIS Scoping Virtual Open House with in-person scoping comment stations and oral comment phone line.
- HEPA Cultural Impact Assessment.
- Draft EIS with a no less than 45-day comment period and public meetings.



# EIS Process



## ABBREVIATIONS

- DEIS:** Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- DOPAA:** Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives
- EISPN:** EIS Preparation Notice
- FEIS:** Final Environmental Impact Statement
- FR:** Federal Register
- HEPA:** Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act
- NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act
- NOA:** Notice of Availability
- NOI:** Notice of Intent
- ROD:** Record of Decision
- TEN:** State of Hawai'i, Office of Environmental Quality publication, *The Environmental Notice*



# Military in Hawai'i and PTA

## Hawai'i is Important to the Military

- Hawai'i is strategically important to national defense. Its location between the continental U.S. and the Indo-Pacific region serves as a logistics link and allows for rapid troop deployment.
- Hawai'i is home to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, which has responsibility for half of the globe and more than 50% of the world's population.
- Hawai'i hosts the headquarters for U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Pacific Air Forces, and U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific.
- Hawai'i provides a range of training environments that cannot be replicated in other states, preparing troops to fight as they train.

## The Military is Important to Hawai'i

- As of March 2020, the military employed 71,955 personnel in the State.
- In FY2018, the DOD spent \$7.2 billion in the State.
- In FY2018, the DOD spent \$20.8 million on personnel payroll in the County of Hawai'i.

## PTA is Important to the Military

- PTA is the only area in Hawai'i that supports larger unit (i.e., battalion and brigade) collective live-fire and maneuver training. It is the largest contiguous live-fire range and maneuver training area in Hawai'i, and the primary tactical training area for units conducting military mission essential tasks and training requirements.
- PTA supports joint and multi-national exercises critical to ensure that the U.S. military and allied nations know how to cooperatively work together.
- PTA is the only training area in Hawai'i where military units can use weapons systems at maximum capabilities to complete training requirements.
- PTA is used by the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Reserve, Hawaii Army National Guard, Hawaii Air National Guard, Hawai'i Police Department and others.



LTC Borce and CSM Ortiz with Youth Challenge Academy Leadership; Civil Air Patrol cadets from Hilo and Kona; Tropic Lightning Soldiers in local parade. Photo Credit: PTA/M.Donnelly



# Why Retain State-owned Land at PTA?

## LEASE IS EXPIRING

The U.S. Government leases approximately 23,000 acres of PTA from the State. The Army has been training there for the past six decades.

## STATE-OWNED LAND ESSENTIAL TO PTA

The State-owned land is the connective tissue of PTA, providing access between major parcels of U.S. Government-owned land in PTA and supporting training facilities, maneuver areas and capabilities that are essential to U.S. Army Hawaii and other military services and local agencies.

## TRAINING AT PTA SAVES LIVES

Properly trained military personnel are prepared for their mission and return home from deployments to their families.

### Examples of Training Facilities on State-owned Land



Military Operation in Urban Terrain Facility. Photo Credit: HDR



Firing Point. Photo Credit: PTA/M. Donnelly



Battle Area Complex (BAX). Photo Credit: PTA/M. Donnelly



# Overview of the Proposed Action

## Proposed Action

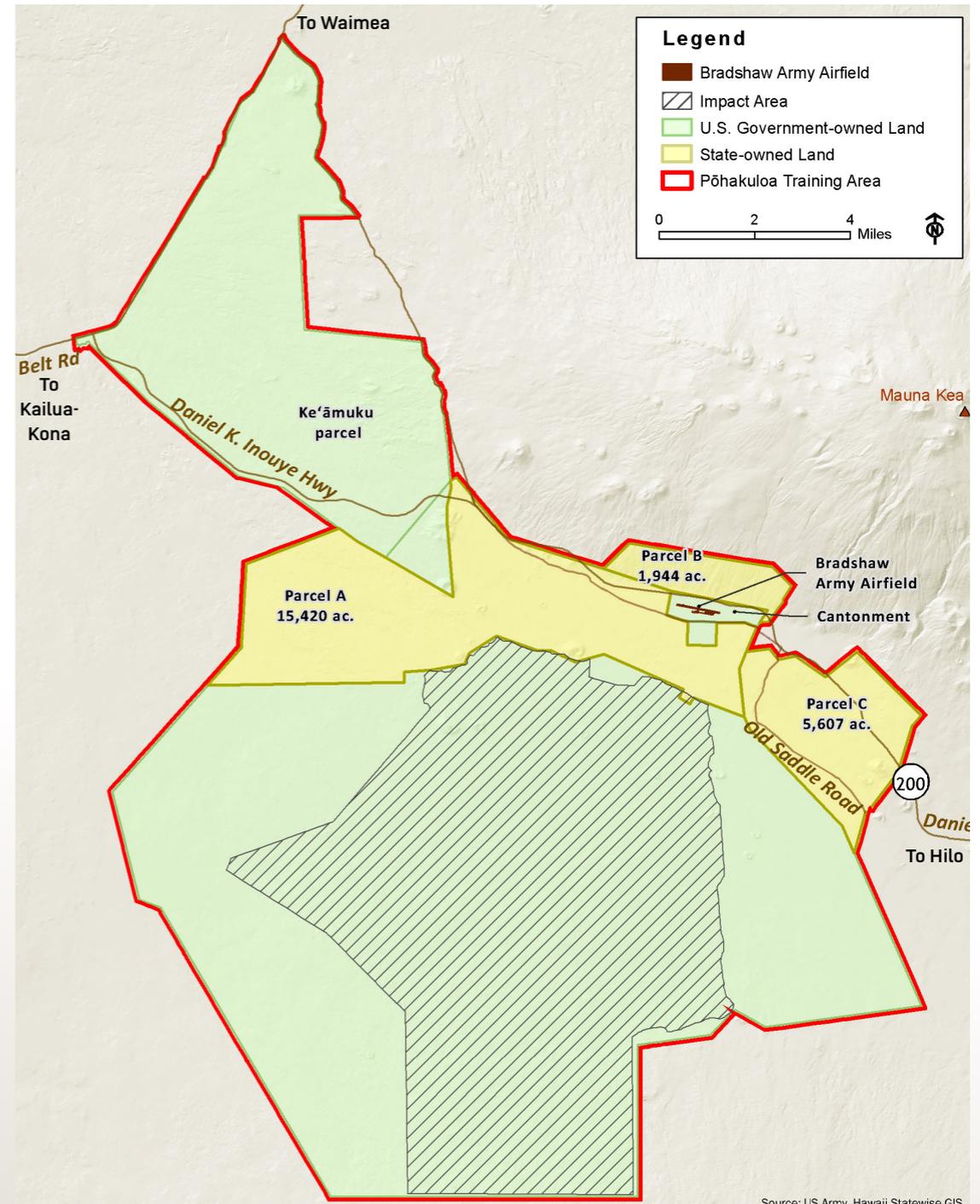
- To retain up to approximately 23,000 acres of State-owned land at PTA in support of continued military training. Multiple land retention methods could be used.
- To retain the State-owned land prior to the end of the current lease and prevent interruption of essential military training.
- After retention of the State-owned land, the Army would continue to conduct the current levels and types of military training; facility and infrastructure maintenance; natural and cultural resources stewardship; and to manage use of the State-owned land by other organizations.
- The Proposed Action does not involve new training, construction, or resource management at PTA. Instead, it is a real estate action that would enable continued military use of the State-owned land.

## Purpose of the Proposed Action

To enable the U.S. Army Hawaii to continue to conduct military training on the State-owned land within PTA to meet its current and future training requirements.

## Need for the Proposed Action

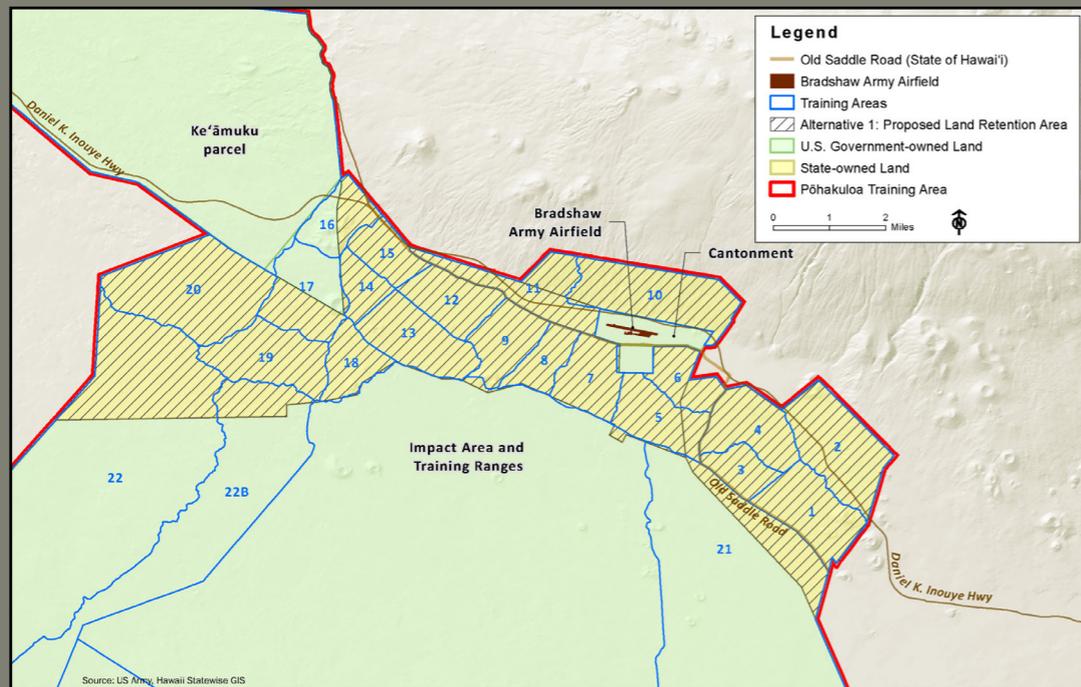
To enable access between major parcels of U.S. Government-owned land in PTA, retain substantial Army infrastructure investments, allow for future facility and infrastructure modernization, preserve limited maneuver area, provide austere environment training, and maximize use of the impact area in support of U.S. Army Hawaii-coordinated training.





# Alternatives 1 and 2

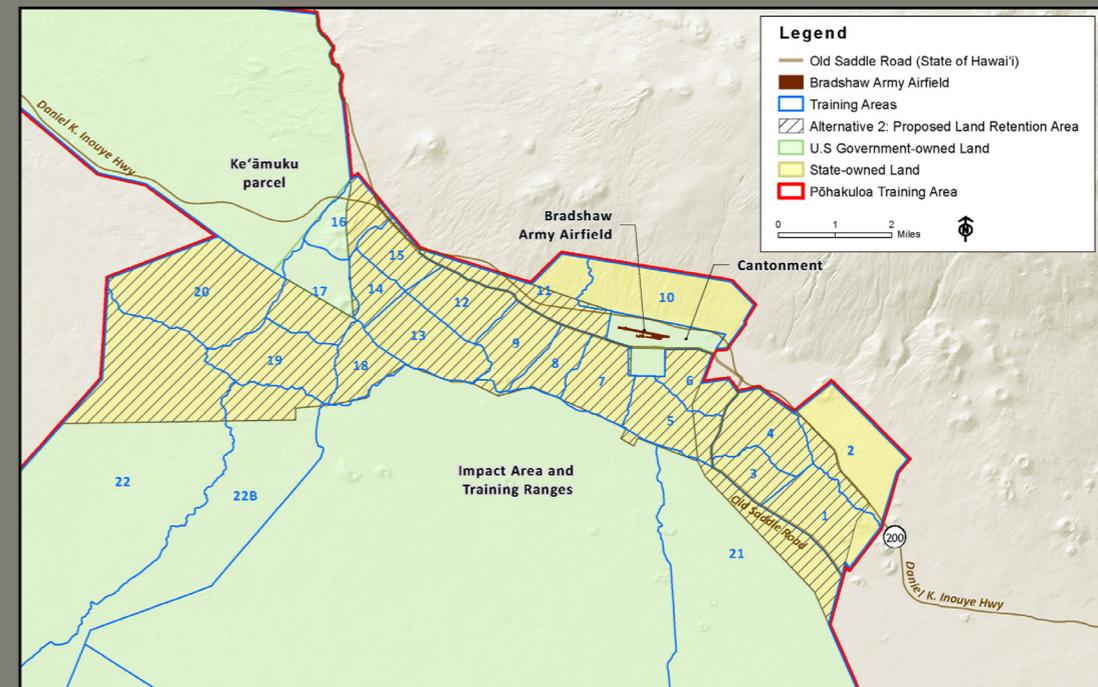
## Alternative 1: Full Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 1, all State-owned land would be retained. This alternative allows the Army to retain its substantial investment in facilities, utilities and infrastructure; continue military training without downtime; and conduct future modernization.

## Alternative 2: Modified Retention



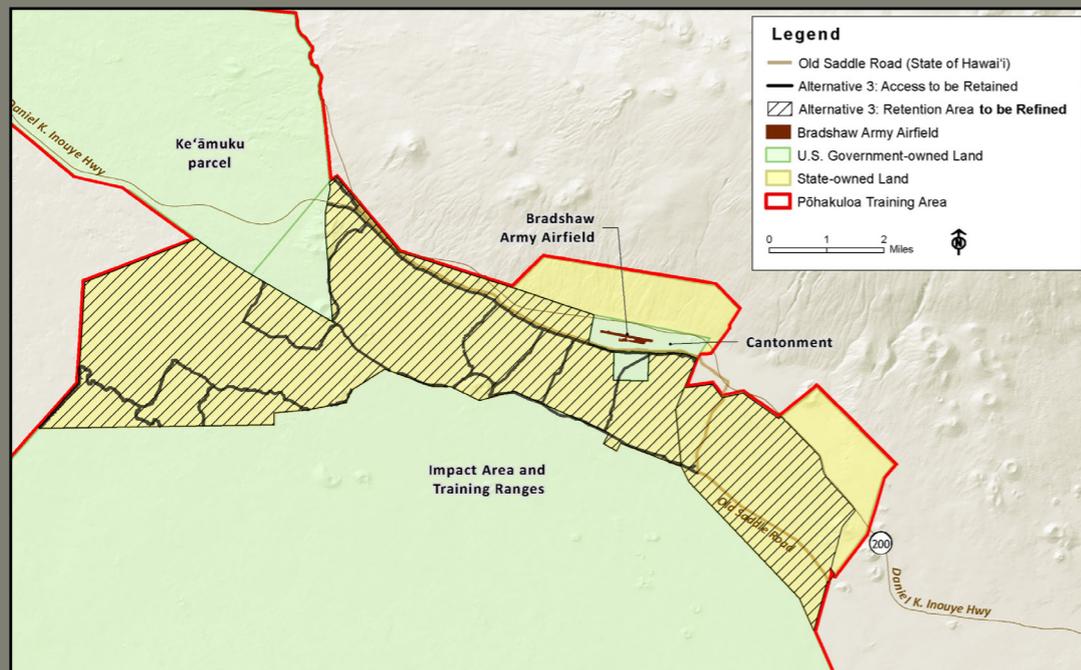
Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain approximately 20,000 acres of the State-owned land at PTA. Additionally, the Army would retain all Army-owned utilities, firebreaks/fuel breaks, and fire access roads in the State-owned land not retained.



# Alternative 3 and No Action Alternative

## Alternative 3: Minimum Retention and Access



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 3, Army would retain the following: vital training and support facilities and associated maneuver land not able to be relocated within U.S. Government-owned land at PTA; select roads and training trails; all Army-owned utilities; firebreaks/fuel breaks and fire access roads; tactical vehicle wash facility; and land use rights to enable the firing of indirect fire weapons (e.g., artillery, mortars) from U.S. Government-owned portions of PTA northwest of the State-owned land into the impact area. (Specific retention area to be refined in the EIS.)

## No Action Alternative



Photo Credit: G70

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not retain any of the State-owned land at PTA.



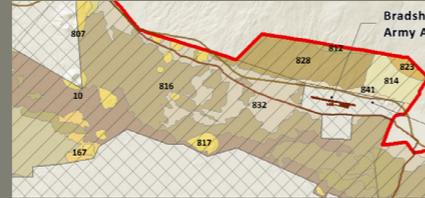
# Environmental Topics to be Analyzed

## Land Use



Land use compatibility, easements, and real property management

## Geological & Soil Resources



Bedrock, seismology, volcanology, soil properties and erosion

## Biological Resources



Vegetation and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, wetlands and wildland fires

## Cultural Resources



Historic buildings and viewsheds, archaeological resources, Native Hawaiian Organizations, traditional and customary practices, hunting, gathering, and cultural beliefs, uses and accesses

## Airspace



Controlled airspace, Special Use Airspace and Military Operations Areas

## Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas



Ambient Air Quality Standards, Prevention of Significant Deterioration, and dust

## Water Resources



Surface water, groundwater, floodplains, and Clean Water Act

## Noise



Zones, community and wildlife impacts

## Utilities



Potable water, wastewater, stormwater, solid waste, electricity and communications

## Human Health & Safety



Health, safety and safety danger zones

## Hazardous Materials



Hazardous materials and wastes, petroleum products, storage tanks, unexploded ordnance, and depleted uranium

## Socioeconomics



Demographics, housing, economic development, recreation, environmental justice and protection of children

## Transportation & Traffic



Roadways, air transportation, traffic volume and level of congestion

## Electromagnetic Spectrum



Radio waves to gamma waves, radio frequency, spectrum use, radar and satellite



**Thank You**