



ARMY TRAINING LAND RETENTION AT PŌHAKULOĀ TRAINING AREA

ARMY SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Army is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloā Training Area (PTA) on the island of Hawai'i. The Army proposes to retain up to approximately 23,000 acres of State-owned land at PTA. Military training has taken place at PTA since it was established in 1956.

The Army is initiating the EIS process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), guided by the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 1500–1508, and Army NEPA implementing regulations in Title 32 C.F.R. Part 651. The EIS also will comply with Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200.1, collectively referred to as the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA). Like NEPA, HEPA ensures environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making, along with economic and technical considerations.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

The public scoping process will help to identify reasonable alternatives, potential impacts, and key issues of concern to be evaluated in the EIS. In this regard, it helps to define the "scope" of issues and analyses addressed in the EIS. The public scoping period starts on September 4, 2020 and ends on October 14, 2020. Federal, state, and local agencies, Native Hawaiian organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the scoping process. Due to uncertainties regarding COVID-19 restrictions, in-person public scoping meetings will not be held. The Army is providing opportunities for public input during the scoping process by facilitating an EIS Scoping Virtual Open House.

REVIEW PROJECT INFORMATION

- ▶ <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS>

OPTIONS TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

Comment period is September 4, 2020 - October 14, 2020.

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

Note: 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 Personal contact information will not be published in the Draft or Final EIS.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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACCESSIBILITY REQUESTS

Michael Donnelly, PTA Public Affairs Officer
Email: michael.o.donnelly.civ@mail.mil
Phone: (808) 969-2411

EIS SCOPING VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

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

During the Scoping Virtual Open House you can:

- ▶ View online presentations and project documents 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*).

NEPA/HEPA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The NEPA/HEPA process graphic (below) shows opportunities for public input in gold.

