



Welcome to the Draft EIS Public Meeting

What are Draft EIS Public Meetings?

Draft EIS public meetings are conducted in compliance with NEPA and HEPA to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS to aid Army development of the Final EIS.

Public meetings allow the public to:

- Learn about the Proposed Action and alternatives that were analyzed.
- Learn about potential impacts.
- Inform the Army of potential concerns.
- Recommend potential impacts that should be studied further, and aid in establishing a preferred alternative.

The Draft EIS and additional materials are available on the EIS website at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS> as well as at four State libraries: Hawai'i State Library, Hawai'i Documents Center; Hilo Public Library; Kailua-Kona Public Library; Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library.

What to Expect after Public Comment Period?

After the public comment period has ended, the Army will consider all public input and incorporate substantive public input into the development of the Final EIS, including a decision on the preferred alternative. 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 Comments

Comment period is April 8 – June 7, 2022

- In-person: attend a public meeting
- EIS website: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS>
- Email: atlr-pta-eis@g70.design
- Phone: (808) 470-8884 (April 25-26 only)
- Mail: ATLR PTA EIS Comments
P.O. Box 3444
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444



Scan with smartphone
to be directed to the
PTA EIS website.

Draft EIS Public Meetings

Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native Hawaiian organizations; and the public are invited to participate in the Draft EIS public meetings and provide comments, which will be held at the following locations on the following dates and times:

1. 'Imiloa Astronomy Center on April 25, 2022 from 6-8 PM HST
2. Waimea District Park on April 26, 2022 from 6-8 PM HST

The public will have the option to watch the Draft EIS Public Meetings in real time via a live stream that can be accessed on the EIS website at: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/PTAEIS>.

Note: All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted. Personal contact information will not be published in the Final EIS.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 real estate 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

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

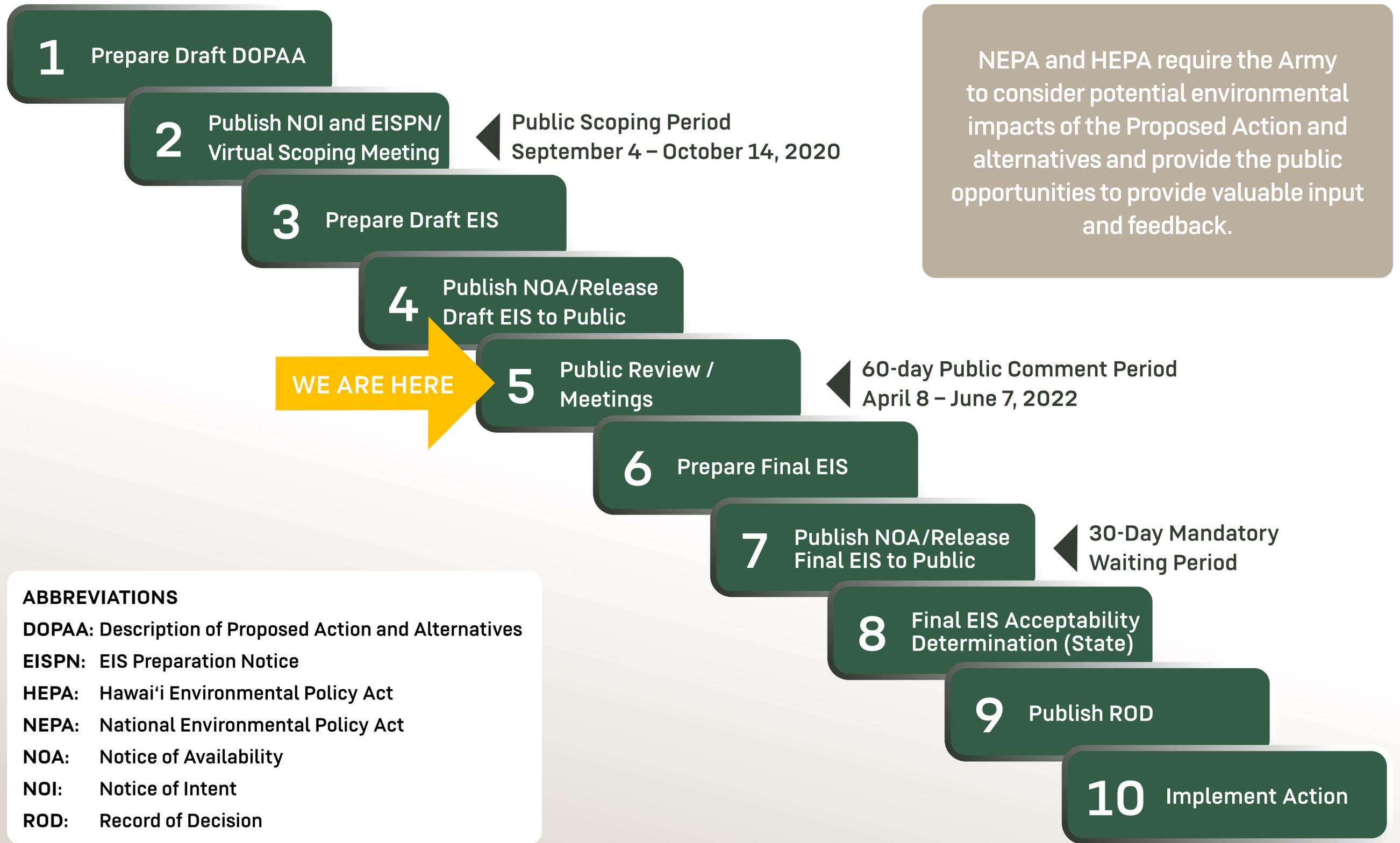
NEPA/HEPA

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

- A 40-day public scoping period that ran from September 4 to October 14, 2020.
- EIS Scoping Virtual Open House with oral comment phone line (September 23, 2020).
- HEPA Cultural Impact Assessment (completed October 2021).
- Draft EIS (NOA on April 8, 2022) with a 60-day comment period (from April 8 – June 7, 2022) and two public meetings.



EIS Process



ABBREVIATIONS

- DOPAA:** Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives
- EISPN:** EIS Preparation Notice
- HEPA:** Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act
- NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act
- NOA:** Notice of Availability
- NOI:** Notice of Intent
- ROD:** Record of Decision



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 an area of responsibility that covers half 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.

Military Economic Benefits to Hawai'i

- In 2021, there were 71,323 total defense personnel in the State.
- In FY 2019, the U.S. military paid \$5.0 billion in wages to defense personnel in the State.
- In FY 2019, overall defense spending in Hawai'i was \$7.5 billion.

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 in Hawai'i for units conducting 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 Kevin Cronin, PTA Garrison Commander, and CSM Harold Gray with Noelani Kalipi, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (Hawai'i Island); Civil Air Patrol cadets from Hilo and Kona; Tropic Lightning Soldiers in local parade. Photo Credit: PTA



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 at PTA for the past six decades. The lease expires in 2029.

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 Operations in Urban Terrain Facility. Photo Credit: HDR



Firing Point. Photo Credit: PTA



Battle Area Complex (BAX). Photo Credit: PTA



Overview of the Proposed Action

Proposed Action

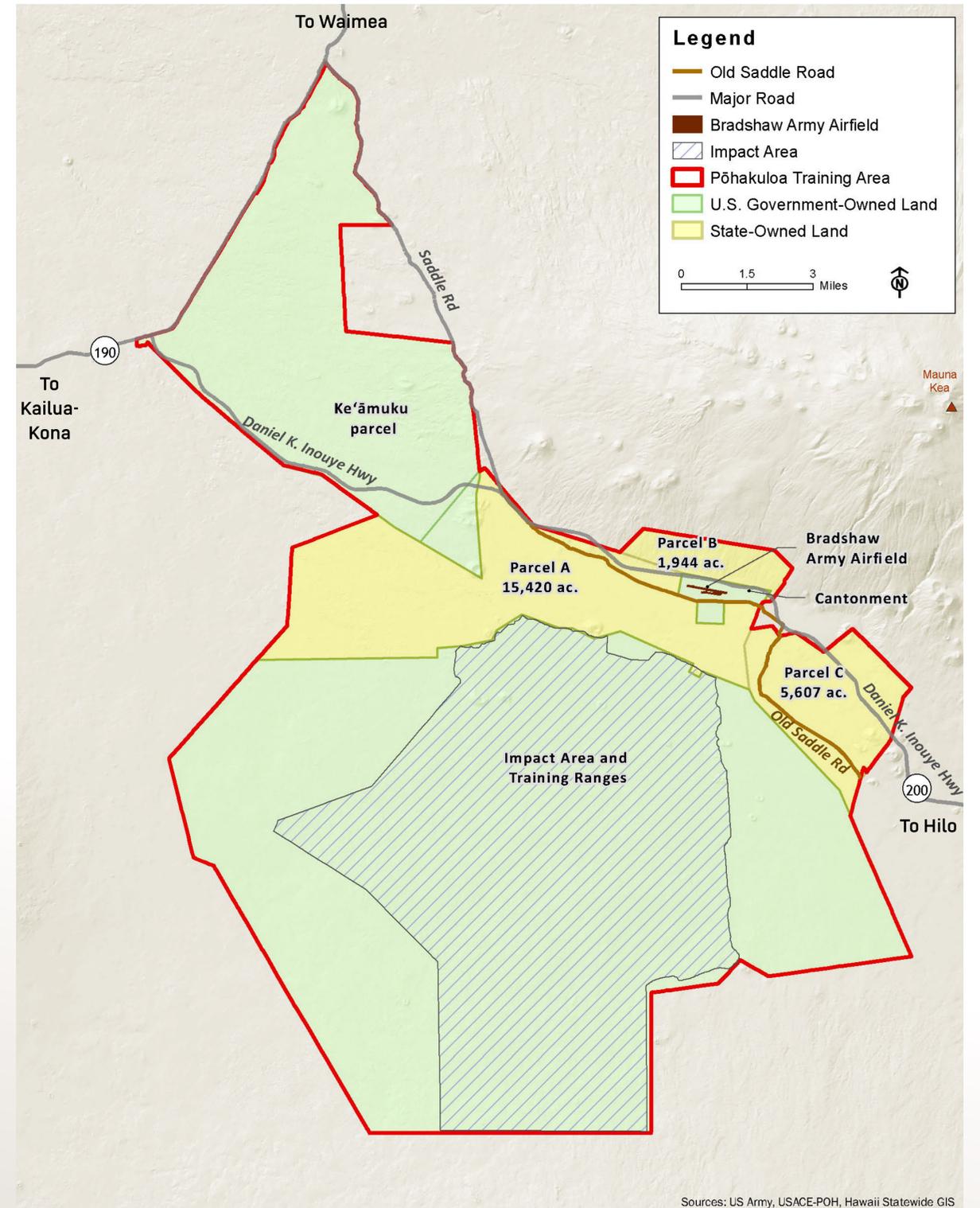
- To retain up to approximately 23,000 acres of State-owned land at PTA in support of continued military training. Multiple land retention estates and methods could be used.
- To retain the State-owned land prior to the end of the lease to prevent interruption of essential military training.
- After arrangement for retention of the State-owned land, the Army would continue its ongoing activities (training; facility, utility, and infrastructure maintenance and repair activities; resource management actions; and associated activities), and it would continue to coordinate ongoing activities by other PTA users.
- The Proposed Action does not include construction, modernization, or changes in ongoing activities. 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 U.S. Army Hawaii to continue to conduct military training on State-owned land within PTA to meet its ongoing 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.



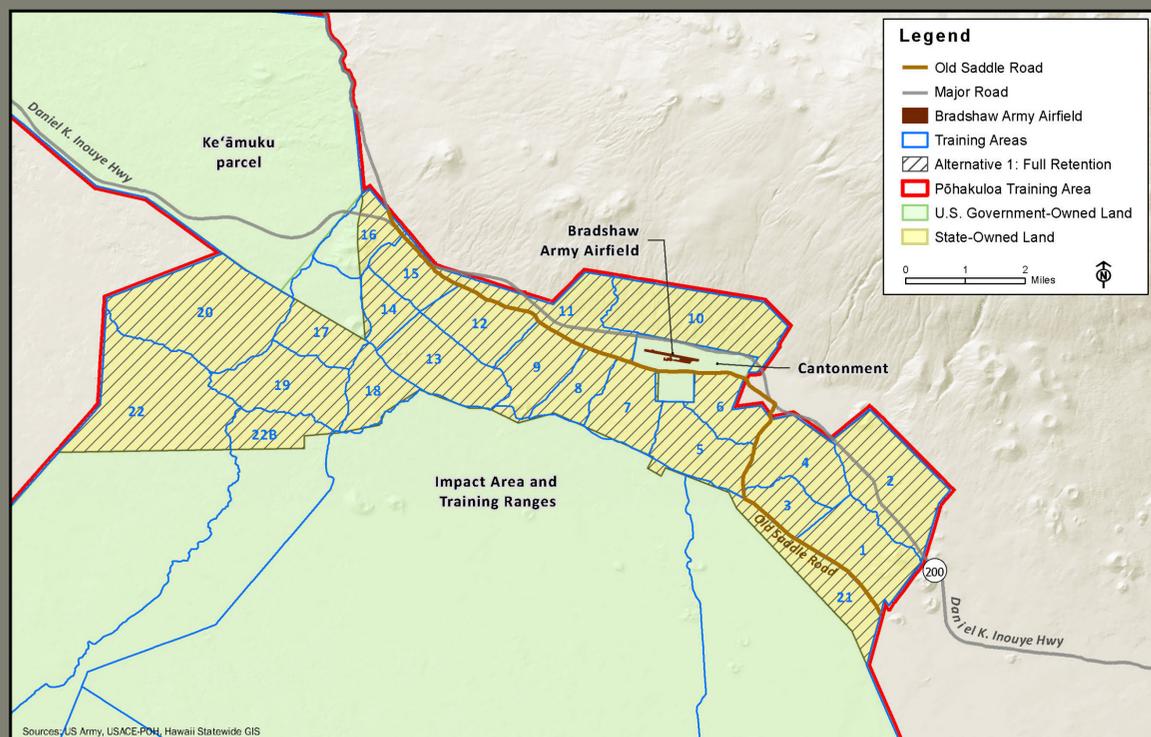
Sources: US Army, USACE-POH, Hawaii Statewide GIS

Map Credit: G70



Alternatives 1 and 2

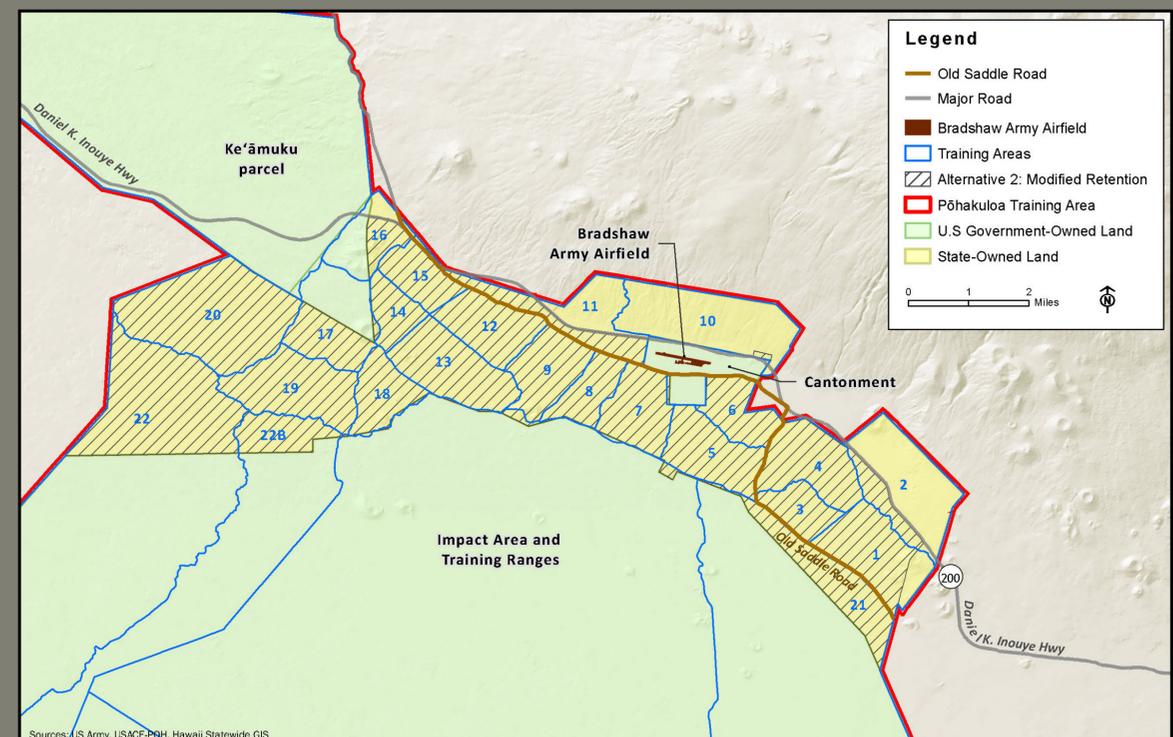
Alternative 1: Full Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 1, all 23,000 acres of State-owned land would be retained. This alternative allows the Army to retain its substantial investment in facilities, utilities and infrastructure; continue military training and other ongoing activities without downtime; and conduct future modernization.

Alternative 2: Modified Retention



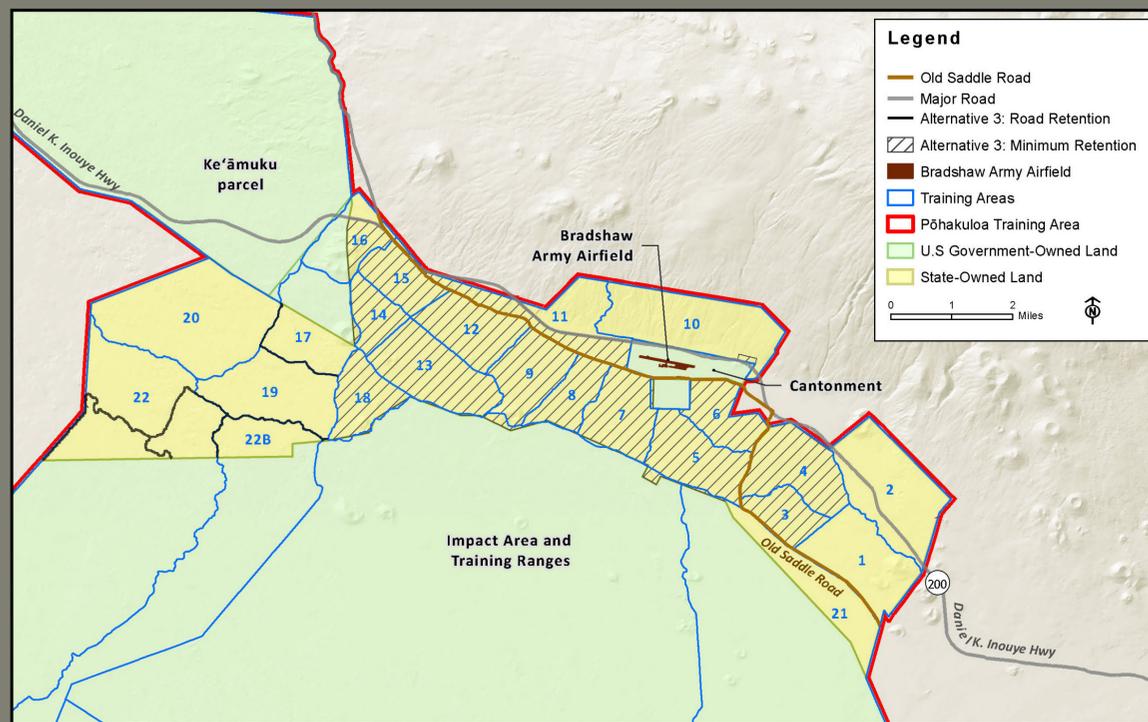
Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain approximately 19,700 acres of the State-owned land at PTA. Additionally, the Army would retain all U.S. Government-owned utilities and associated access in the State-owned land.



Alternative 3 and No Action Alternative

Alternative 3: Minimum Retention and Access



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 3, the Army would retain approximately 10,100 acres and 11 miles of select roads and training trails. Additionally, the Army would retain all U.S. Government-owned utilities and associated access, firebreak/fuel breaks and associated access along most of the select roads and training trails proposed for retention, and land use rights to enable firing of indirect-fire weapons from U.S. Government-owned land at PTA northwest of the State-owned land into the impact area.

No Action Alternative

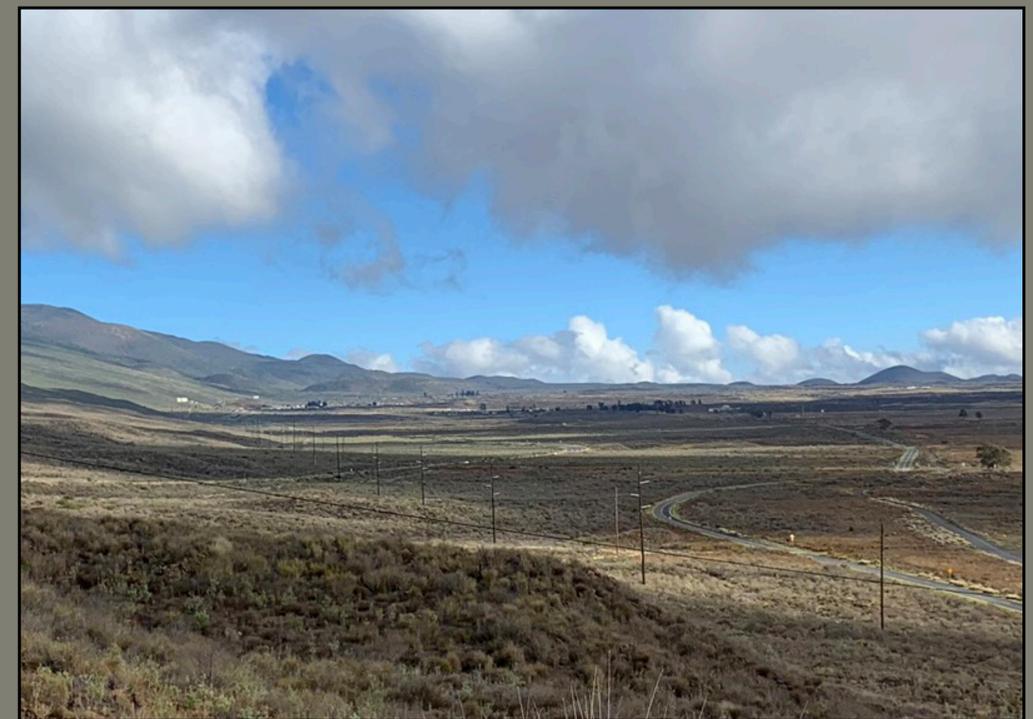


Photo Credit: G70

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



Draft EIS Summary of Impacts

Level of Impacts Key

Level of significance conveys the intensity of potential impacts and are classified as follows:

No impact: Impacts are not present.

Less than significant: Impacts that are negligible to moderate but would not reach the resource's threshold of significance.

Significant: Impacts to a resource would surpass a significance threshold; impacts would be obvious and easily noticed by an observer.

Significant but mitigable: Impacts would be significant but could be mitigated to less than significant.

Beneficial impacts would improve the condition of a resource, whereas adverse impacts would cause a decline in the condition of a resource.

Land Use



Continued adverse impacts to recreation from restricted public access. New beneficial impacts on land tenure and conformance with State land use policy. Impacts would be less than significant.

Biological Resources



Continued adverse impacts from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Cultural Resources



No impacts to architectural resources. Less than significant continued adverse impacts to archaeological sites due to ongoing activities. Significant but mitigable continued adverse impacts to traditional and customary practices from access limitations.

Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Wastes



Continued adverse impacts from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant and would be minimized through management measures.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases



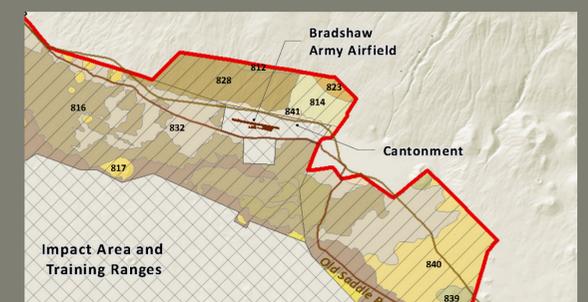
Continued adverse impacts on air quality and greenhouse gases from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Noise



Continued adverse noise impacts from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Geological & Soil Resources



Continued adverse impacts related to soil disturbances from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant and would be minimized through established programs.

Note: Impacts shown are for Alternative 1. Beneficial impacts are anticipated for most resource areas due to decreased military activities on State-owned land under Alternatives 2 and 3, with the exception that increased adverse impacts are anticipated for Socioeconomics and Human Health and Safety.

Photo Credits: PTA. Map Credits: G70



Draft EIS Summary of Impacts

Water Resources



Continued adverse impacts on water resources from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Socioeconomics



Continued beneficial impacts from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Environmental Justice



For low-income and minority populations and native Hawaiians, there would be disproportionate adverse impacts related to land use, cultural resources, and transportation and traffic. These impacts would be minor or mitigated to less than significant and are not anticipated to harm human health or the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

Transportation & Traffic



Continued adverse impacts from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Airspace



Continued adverse impacts on civilian air traffic due to the need to avoid military training in restricted airspace. Impacts would be less than significant.

Electromagnetic Spectrum



Continued adverse impacts on safety from continued use of electromagnetic spectrum equipment. Impacts would be less than significant.

Utilities



Continued adverse impacts on public and U.S. Government-owned utilities from ongoing activities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Human Health & Safety



Continued adverse impacts from ongoing activities and continued beneficial impacts from PTA providing emergency services beyond the installation and permitting non-DoD emergency services agencies to train within the State-owned land. Impacts would be less than significant.

Note: Impacts shown are for Alternative 1. Beneficial impacts are anticipated for most resource areas due to decreased military activities on State-owned land under Alternatives 2 and 3, with the exception that increased adverse impacts are anticipated for Socioeconomics and Human Health and Safety.

Photo Credits: PTA. Map Credits: G70



Thank You