



# Welcome to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Public Scoping Process

## Agenda

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- Opening Remarks
- Overview of Public Scoping
- How Do I Submit Comments?
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
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- Project Background
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- Proposed Action: Purpose and Need
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# Overview of Public Scoping

Your input is valuable and your time is appreciated

## What is Public Scoping?

Public scoping is an early and open process, conducted in compliance with NEPA and HEPA to identify issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

Public scoping allows the public to:

- Learn about the proposed action
- Identify concerns
- Provide new information or suggestions
- Provide comments

## What to Expect after Scoping?

After the public scoping period has ended, the Army will incorporate public input into the development of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be made available for public review for 45 days at the end of 2022/early 2023. The Army will then incorporate public input into development of the Final EIS. A Record of Decision will be issued no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is released.

## Public Scoping Open House

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this is not a traditional Open House event, but instead consists of two hybrid in-person/online public scoping sessions to allow the most public input by the safest means during the allotted time.

- View online presentations and project documents at:  
<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS>
- Attend one of the public scoping sessions on August 10 and 11, 2021, 6 - 9 p.m.
  - In person:  
Leilehua Golf Course  
199 Leilehua Golf Course Rd., Wahiawa, HI 96786
  - Online: View and/or listen via live stream at:  
<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS>



# How Do I Submit Comments?

Your input is valuable and your time is appreciated

## Options To Submit Written Comments

Comment period is July 23 - September 1, 2021.

- In person: Attend a public scoping session. Detailed information available at: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS>
- Online at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/OahuEIS>
- Via email: [usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hawaii.nepa@mail.mil)
- Via mail: O'ahu ATR EIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3444  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3444



Scan with smartphone to be directed to  
the O'ahu EIS website.

## Options To Submit Oral Comments

- In person: Attend a public scoping session
- Via phone: Call (808) 556-8277 to provide oral comments from 4 - 9 p.m.  
(only available on August 10 and 11)

*Note: Comment submittal through the online form is preferred. However, 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 be maintained for the record and will not be released unless required by law.*



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

## What is NEPA?

- NEPA is a federal law that requires preparation of an EIS for major federal actions.
- NEPA procedures ensure environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made, and before actions are taken.



## What is HEPA?

- HEPA is a state law that requires Hawai'i state agencies to consider impacts from state actions on the environment in an EIS.
- The proposed action includes State-owned land and will comply with HEPA provisions.



Natural resource management on O'ahu  
Photo Credit: U.S. Army

This EIS will be a joint NEPA-HEPA document and public involvement processes for both will run concurrently.

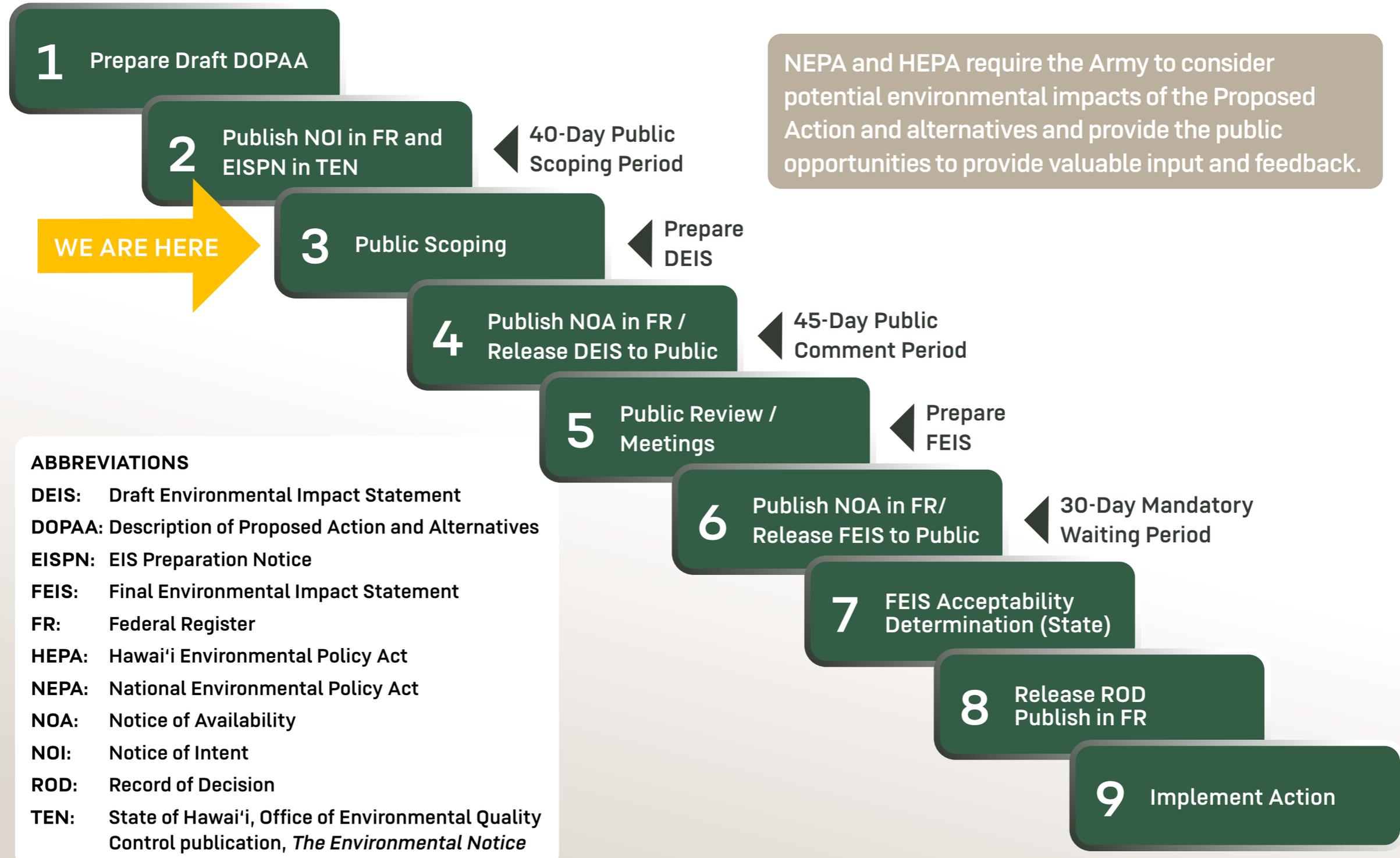
## NEPA/HEPA Public Involvement

Public involvement is a key component of the NEPA and HEPA public processes. The EIS process includes several opportunities for public involvement:

- A 40-day public scoping period for NEPA NOI and HEPA EIS Preparation Notice.
- EIS Scoping Open House with in-person scoping sessions and oral comment phone line.
- HEPA Cultural Impact Assessment
- Draft EIS notice with a 45-day comment period and public meetings.



# Environmental Impact Statement (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 Control publication, *The Environmental Notice*



# Project Background: Why Retain State Lands on O'ahu?

## ARMY LEASES EXPIRING

The U.S. Government uses approximately 18,060 acres for military training purposes at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation where the Army has been for the past six decades. Of these lands, approximately 6,300 acres are leased from the State through 65-year leases which expire on August 16, 2029. The Proposed Action is to retain these State-owned lands for continued use as Army training lands.



## STATE-OWNED LANDS ESSENTIAL TO TRAINING

The State-owned lands have been the keystone of training on O'ahu, supporting numerous training activities, maneuver areas, and capabilities that are essential to the Army, other military services, and local agencies.



## IMPACTS TO MISSION

Loss of these lands would reduce the ability of the Army, other military services, and local agencies to meet their training requirements and mission readiness.

Photo Credit: U.S. Army



# Overview: Kahuku Training Area

## State-Owned Land at Kahuku Training Area (KTA)

- Located in the northern end of the Ko'olau Mountains in northeast O'ahu.
- Consists of approximately 9,480 acres, with 1,170 acres leased from the State.
- Includes Tract A-1 (450 acres) and Tract A-3 (720 acres).
- Used for ground maneuver and helicopter flight training.
- Contains training areas as well as landing zones, access gates, and range roads.
- Portions are used by the public on weekends for recreation such as motocross, hunting, and hiking.

*Note: Approximate acreages were calculated using geographical information systems (GIS).*



Photo Credit: U.S. Army



# Overview: Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area

## State-Owned Land at Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho):

- Located in central O'ahu on the western slope of the Ko'olau Mountains.
- Comprises approximately 4,370 acres and is entirely owned by the State.
- Includes the Poamoho Tract (3,150 acres) and the Proposed State Natural Area Reserve (NAR) Tract (1,220 acres).
- Used for low-altitude helicopter flight training.
- Public hiking and hunting are allowed on weekends and holidays.

*Note: Approximate acreages were calculated using GIS.*

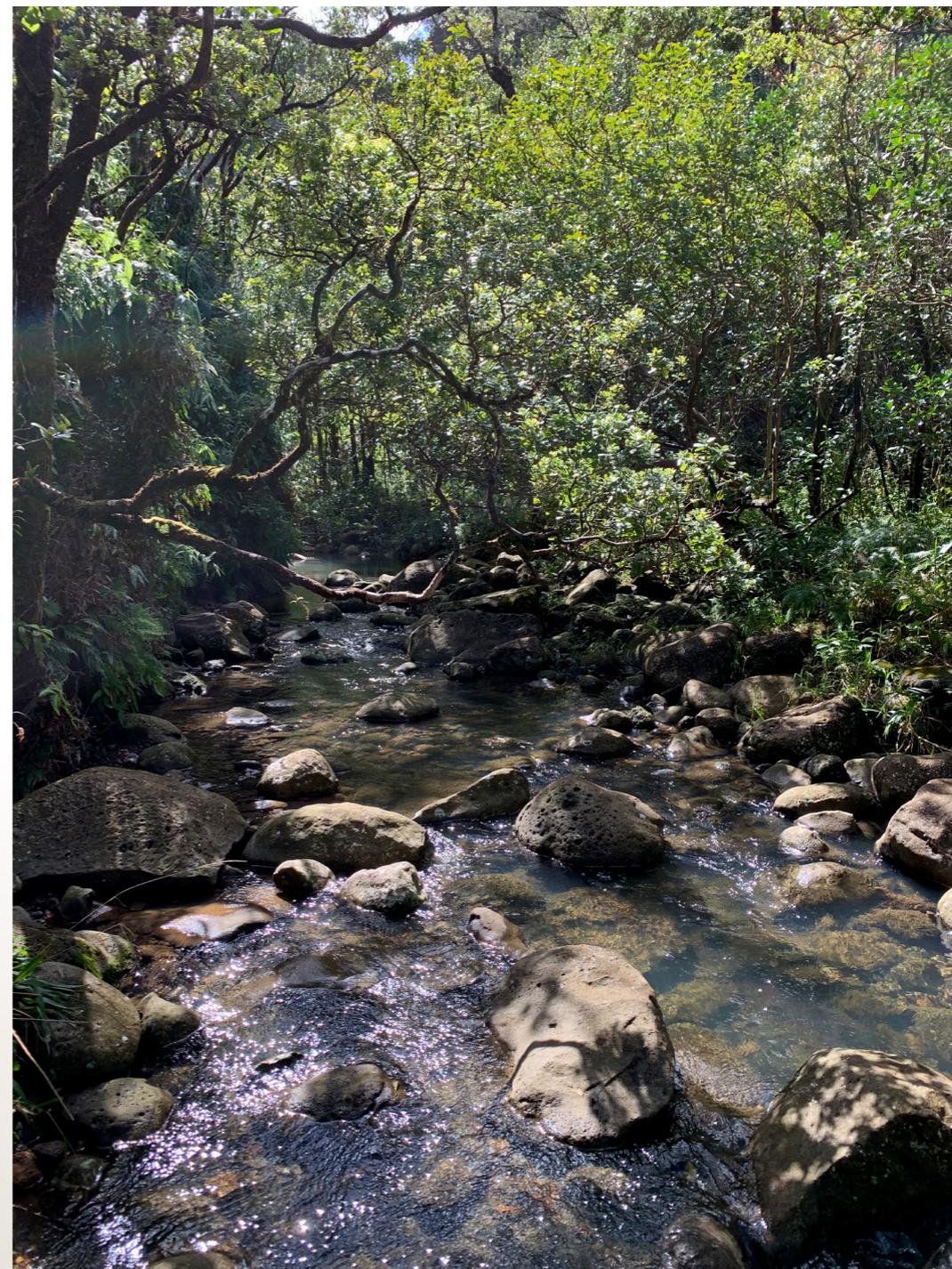


Photo Credit: U.S. Army



# Overview: Makua Military Reservation

## State-Owned Land at Makua Military Reservation (MMR):

- Located in northwest O'ahu, overlapping Makua Valley and Kahanahaiki Valley on the western flank of the Wai'anae Mountain Range.
- Comprises approximately 4,190 acres with approximately 760 acres leased from the State.
- Includes areas designated in the EIS as Makai, North Ridge, Center and South Ridge Tracts.
- Used for maneuver, aviation, and assembly area operations training.
- The U.S. Government maintains infrastructure such as training ranges and objectives, and range roads/ firebreaks.

*Note: Approximate acreages were calculated using GIS.*



Photo Credit: U.S. Army



# Proposed Action: Purpose and Need

## Proposed Action

- The Army would retain up to approximately 6,300 acres of State-owned lands on O'ahu in support of continued military training. Multiple land retention methods could be used and will be determined after ROD.
- The Army would retain the State-owned lands prior to the end of the current lease to limit disruption to training.
- After retention of the State-owned lands, Army would continue to conduct the current levels and types of military training; facility, utility and infrastructure maintenance and repair activities; natural and cultural resources stewardship and mitigation; and conduct the management of land for other users.
- The Proposed Action does not involve new training, construction, or resource management activities. The EIS will analyze live fire training at MMR at a programmatic level. If the Army proposes a resumption of live fire at MMR, it would also be subject to further separate and more detailed NEPA analysis.

## Purpose of the Proposed Action

To secure long-term military use of the State-owned lands, for which current leases expire in 2029.

## Need for the Proposed Action

To allow the military to continue to meet current and future training and combat readiness requirements on Army-managed lands in Hawai'i.



# Description of Alternatives

## Alternative 1: Full Retention

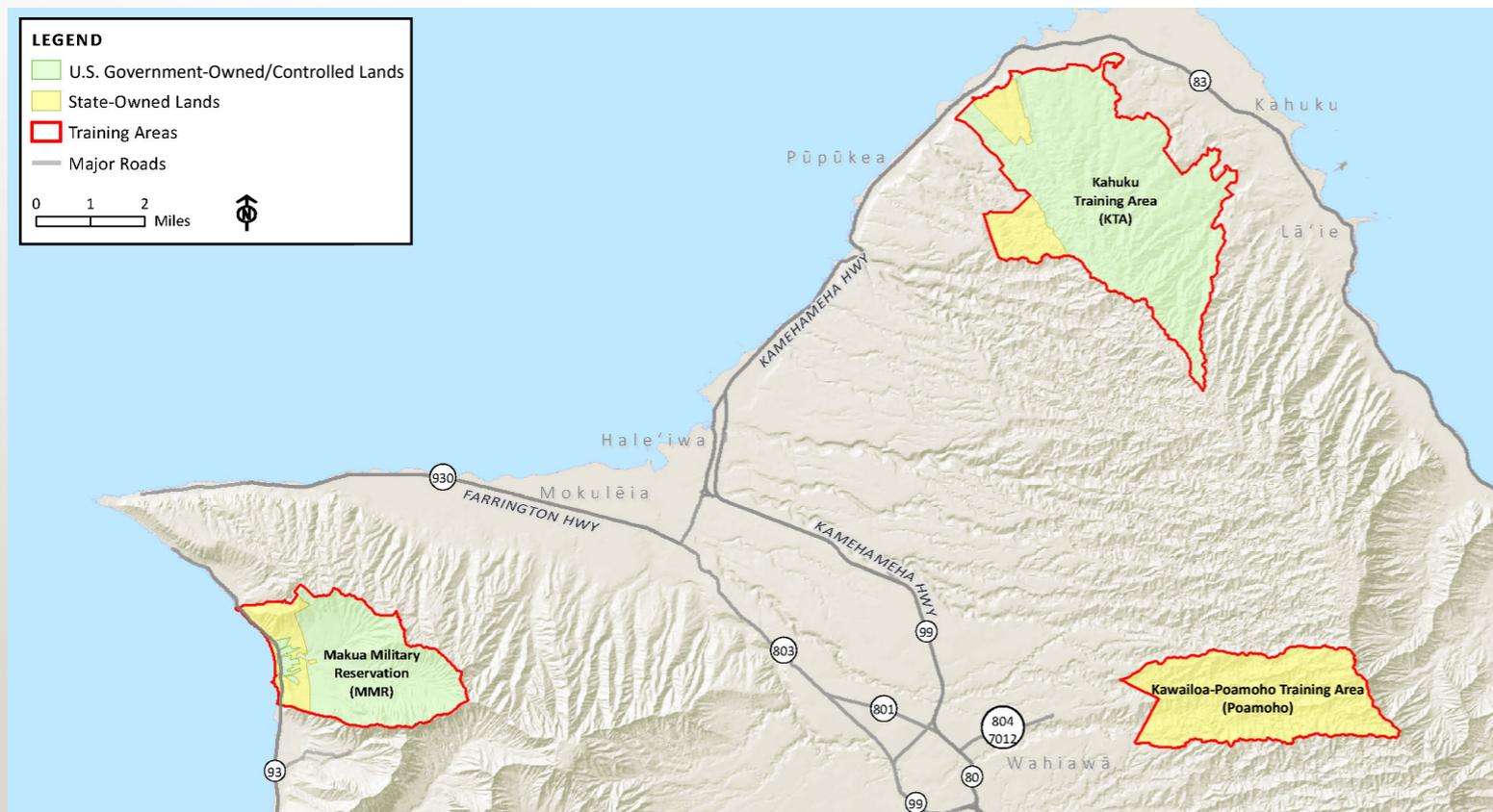
Under Alternative 1, all State-owned lands would be retained. This alternative allows the Army to retain the significant investment in facilities and infrastructure, continue military training without downtime, and allow for future modernization.

## Alternative 2: Modified Retention

Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain State-owned lands within each training area except for land on which limited training occurs.

## Alternative 3: Minimum Retention and Access

Under Alternative 3, the Army would retain the minimum amount of State-owned land that is required to continue to meet its training requirements. This includes retaining appropriate training/support facilities, infrastructure, maneuver training land, and access to these features. This alternative does not apply to all the training areas.



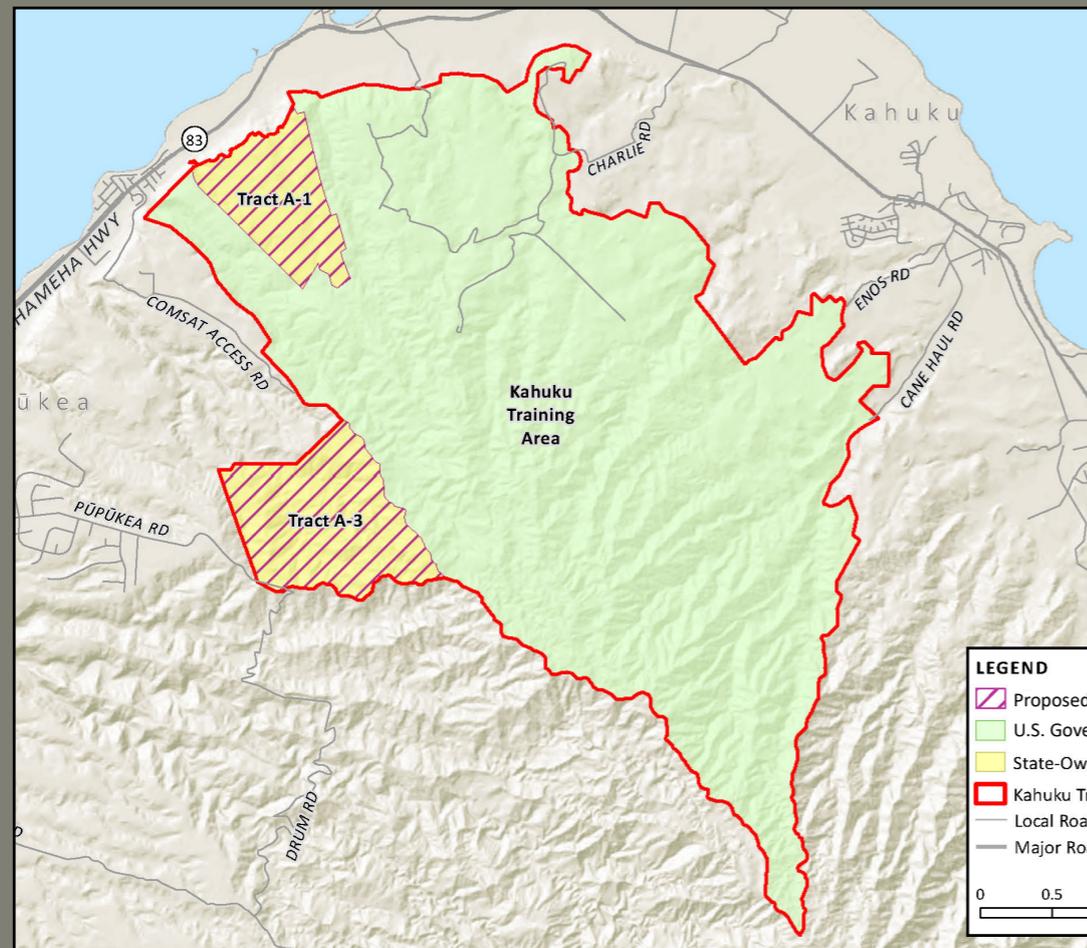
## No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not retain any of these State-owned lands.



# Kahuku Training Area (KTA) Alternatives 1 and 2

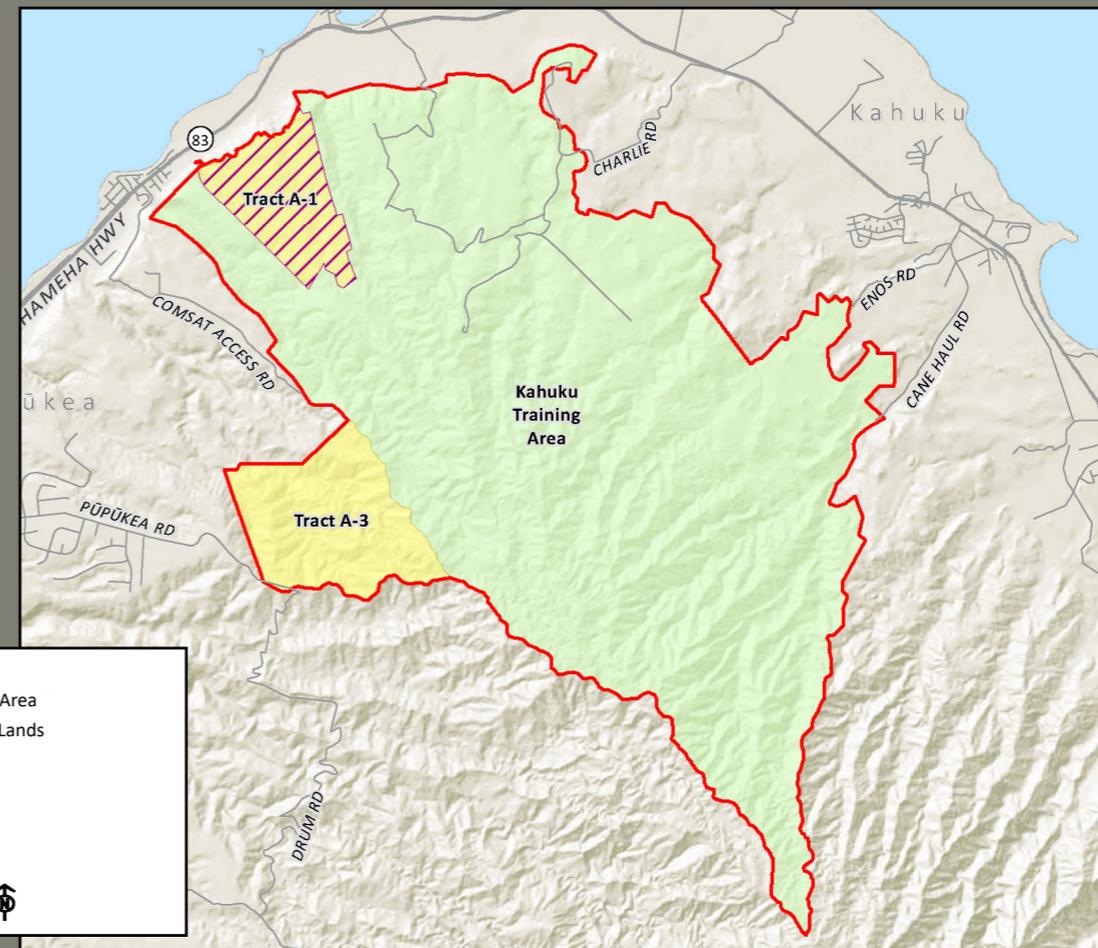
## KTA Alternative 1: Full Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 1, the Army would retain all State-owned land including both Tract A-1 and Tract A-3.

## KTA Alternative 2: Modified Retention



Map Credit: G70

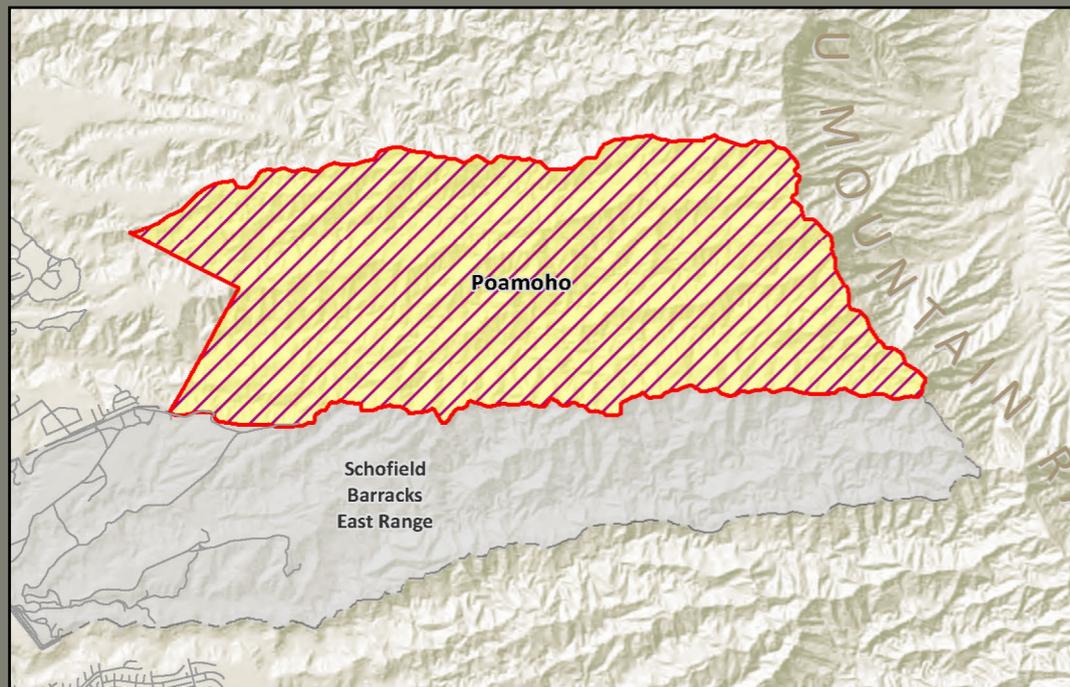
Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain Tract A-1 but would not retain Tract A-3.



# Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho)

## Alternatives 1 and 2

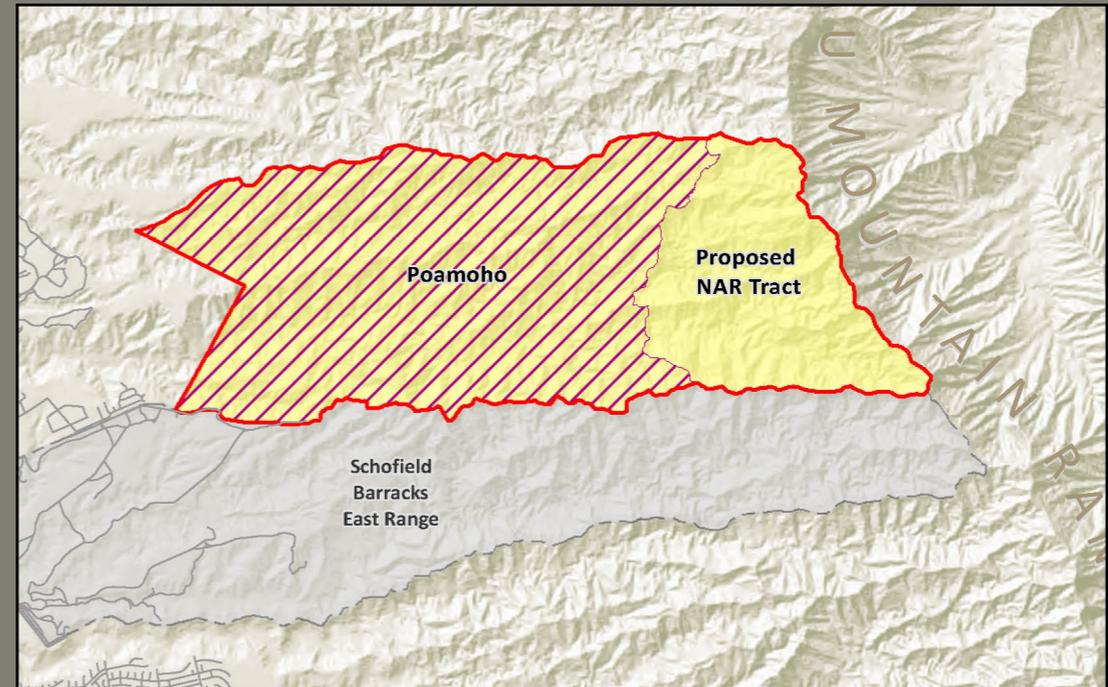
### Poamoho Alternative 1 Full Retention



Map Credit: G70

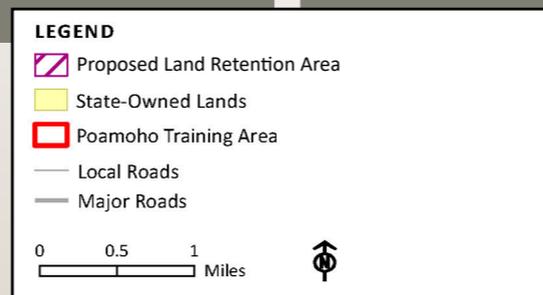
Under Alternative 1, the Army would retain all State-owned land including the Poamoho Tract and the Proposed NAR Tract.

### Poamoho Alternative 2 Modified Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain the Poamoho Tract but would not retain the Proposed NAR Tract.





# Makua Military Reservation (MMR) Alternatives 1, 2, and 3

## MMR Alternative 1 Full Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 1, the Army would retain all State-owned land at MMR.

## MMR Alternative 2 Modified Retention



Map Credit: G70

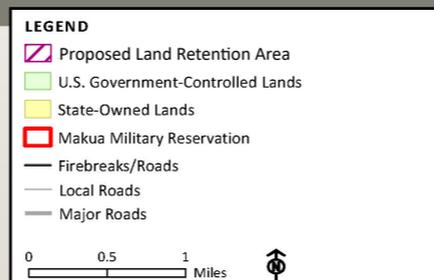
Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain the North Ridge Tract, Center Tract, and South Ridge Tract.

## MMR Alternative 3 Minimum Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 3, the Army would retain only the Center Tract.





# 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



Archaeological resources, traditional religious and cultural properties, and other valued resources, traditional and customary cultural practices, historic buildings and structures

## 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, marine resources, and Clean Water Act

## Noise



Noise zones, community and wildlife impacts

## Utilities



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

## Health & Safety



Human health and safety, and safety danger zones

## Hazardous Materials



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

## Socioeconomics



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

## Transportation & Traffic



Traffic, roadways, and air transportation, traffic volume and level of congestion

## Electromagnetic Spectrum



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