



Media Release

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Army publishes the final environmental impact statement for proposed land retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawai'i (April 18, 2025) – The U.S. Army has prepared a final environmental impact statement (EIS) on its proposed retention of up to approximately 22,750 acres of state-owned land to support continued military training at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the island of Hawai'i.

Located between Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Hualālai on the island of Hawai'i, PTA is the largest contiguous live-fire range and maneuver training area in Hawai'i. Of the approximately 132,000 acres at PTA, the Army leases approximately 23,000 acres from the state. The Army's 65-year lease of the state-owned land is set to expire in August 2029.

The Army published a draft EIS in April 2022. In response to comments received from agencies and the public, the Army published a second draft EIS in April 2024. All comments received on the second draft EIS were reviewed and considered in preparing the final EIS.

The EIS was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act. A notice has been published in the Federal Register to announce the availability of the EIS. The EIS will also be published in the State Environmental Review Program's publication, *The Environmental Notice*.

The EIS evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the purpose of, and need for, the proposed action. Alternatives considered are: 1) Maximum Retention (of approximately 22,750 acres); 2) Modified Retention (of approximately 19,700 acres); 3) Minimum Retention and Access (of approximately 10,100 acres and 11 miles of roads and training trails); and 4) the No-Action Alternative. The Army has identified Alternative 2, Modified Retention, as the preferred alternative.

The EIS indicates that under Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, significant adverse impacts could occur on land use (land tenure), biological resources, cultural practices, and environmental justice. Under the No-Action Alternative, significant adverse impacts on biological resources, socioeconomics, and utilities could occur. The No-Action Alternative could have significant beneficial impacts on land use, cultural practices, and environmental justice.

The Army will observe a 30-day waiting period before deciding how much land, if any, it will seek to retain. The waiting period for the final EIS will end 30 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, after which time the Army will execute a Record of Decision.

The Army distributed the EIS to Native Hawaiian organizations, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, other stakeholders, and local libraries. The EIS and related information are available online at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/ptaeis/project-home>.

For more information, please contact the U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i Public Affairs Office by email at usarmy.hawaii.nepa@army.mil or by phone at (808) 787-2140.