



Press Release

U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i
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Army commits to ongoing cooperation with the State for Pōhakuloa leased lands

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawai'i (May 9, 2025) – The U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i today presented an overview of the leased lands at Pōhakuloa on Hawai'i Island before the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). The meeting focused on the published Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for a final review and BLNR consideration of the FEIS acceptability.

The BLNR voted to not accept the published FEIS during the meeting.

Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) is the premier combat training area in the Pacific theater for all ground forces including the U.S. Army, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, local law enforcement officials (HPD, FBI, Sherriff Dept.) and Hawai'i's own National Guard and Army Reservists.

The published FEIS was achieved with input from the local community.

"U.S. Army Hawai'i understands and deeply respects the concerns expressed by community members, cultural practitioners, and environmental advocates regarding the Army's presence and activities at Pōhakuloa Training Area," said Lt. Col. Tim Alvarado, U.S. Army Garrison Pōhakuloa commander. "We recognize that past actions have caused harm and eroded trust, and we continue to seek a balance with consideration for the cultural and environmental significance of this land."

The U.S. Army is seeking to return nearly 3,300 acres of Pōhakuloa leased lands back to the State of Hawai'i and retaining 19,700 acres to sustain training at PTA.

"The Army is committed to continuing its environmental and cultural stewardship in support of the U.S. Army Pacific training strategy while maintaining an enduring partnership with the Hawai'i Island community," said Col. Rachel Sullivan, U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i commander.

The Army is currently observing a 30-day waiting period, after which the Army will determine how much land it will seek to retain in its Record of Decision (ROD). The method of retention, or real estate transaction (lease, fee simple), would be negotiated with the State of Hawaii after the ROD is confirmed.