



# Welcome to the Second Draft EIS Public Meeting

## What are Second Draft EIS Public Meetings?

Based on comments received on the Draft EIS for Army Training Land Retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), the Army decided to refine the Proposed Action and alternatives and develop a Second Draft EIS. Second Draft EIS public meetings are conducted in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA) to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the Second Draft EIS to aid Army development of the Final EIS.

Public meetings allow the public to:

- Learn about changes since the Draft EIS and 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.

The Second Draft EIS and additional materials are available on the EIS website at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/ptaeis/project-home> as well as at four 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. 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 19, 2024 - June 7, 2024.

- In-person: attend a public meeting
- EIS website: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/ptaeis/project-home>
- Email: ATLR-PTA-EIS@g70.design
- Phone: (808) 515-5518 (May 6 and 7 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.

## Second Draft EIS Public Meetings

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

1. Waimea District Park, May 6, 6:00 - 8:00 PM.
2. 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, May 7, 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

The public may review the meeting materials and will have the option to watch the Second 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/ptaeis/project-home>.

*Note: All comments will be reviewed, 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.*





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# 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.

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



Natural resource management at PTA  
Photo Credit: PTA

## NEPA/HEPA

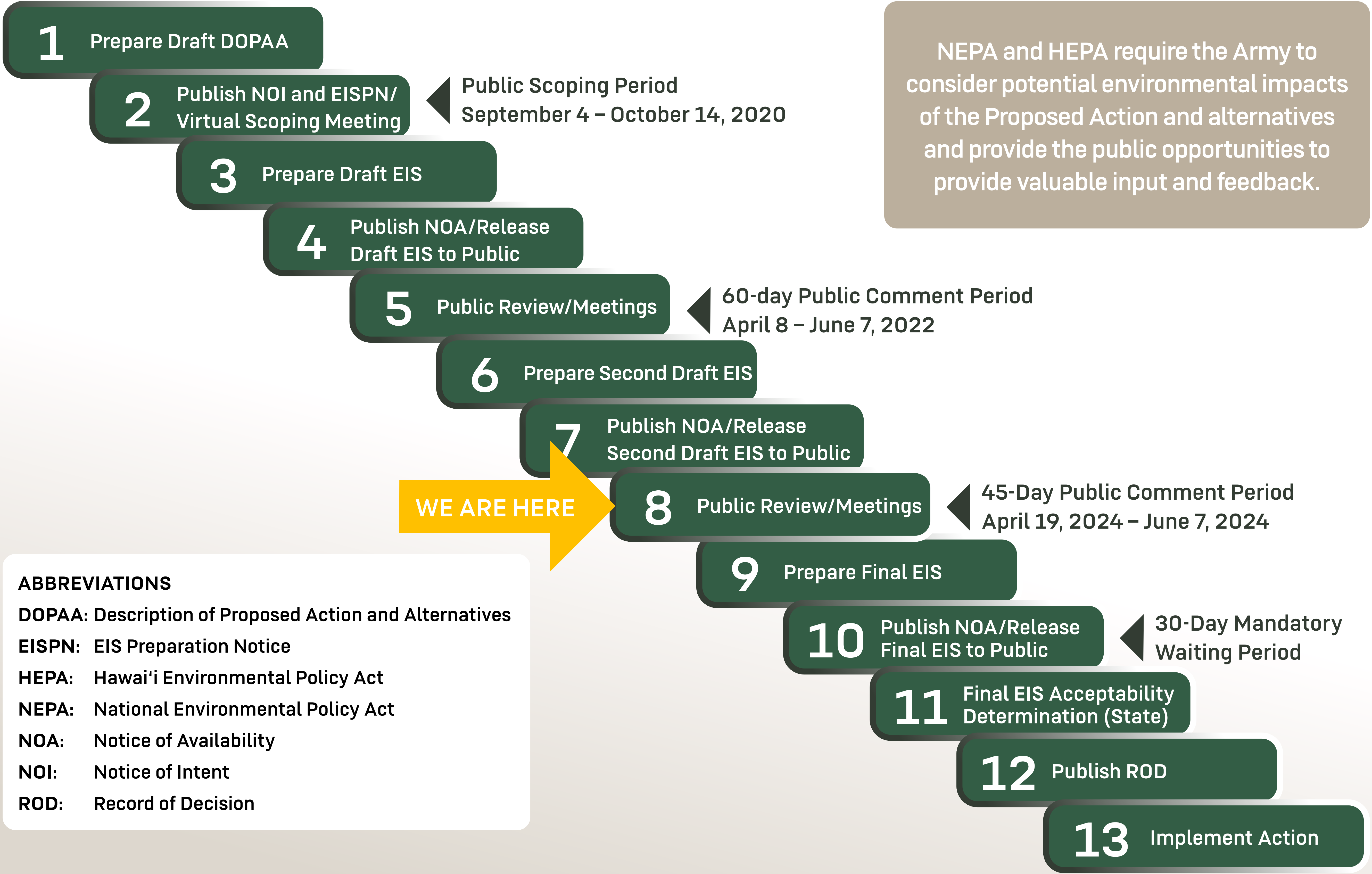
Public involvement is a key component of the NEPA and HEPA processes. Opportunities include:

- 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 January 2024).
- Draft EIS (Notice of Availability [NOA] on April 8, 2022) with a 60-day comment period (from April 8 – June 7, 2022) and public meetings that were held on April 25, 2022 at the Imiloa Astronomy Center and April 26, 2022 at the Waimea District Park.
- Second Draft EIS (NOA on April 19, 2024) with a comment period (from April 19, 2024 - June 7, 2024) and public meetings.





# EIS Process





# 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.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Jessica Cho, PTA Garrison CSM, Lt. Col. Tim Alvarado, PTA Garrison Commander Miles Yoshioka and Carla Kuo, Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce; Civil Air Patrol cadets from Hilo and Kona; Tropic Lightning Soldiers in local parade. Photo Credit: PTA





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# 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 among 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





# Draft EIS vs. Second Draft EIS

The Second Draft EIS includes substantial revisions to the EIS in response to agency and public comments on the Draft EIS published in 2022. The following is a list of the primary revisions:

## PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

- Proposed Action no longer includes retention of approximately 250 acres of State-owned land administered by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.
- Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) identified at the end of Chapter 2.

## RETENTION ANALYSIS

- Chapter 3 provides detailed analysis of impacts to resources for land retained under fee simple title and land retained under a new lease.
- Appendix H added to highlight the land retention estate assumptions.

## NEPA DOCUMENTS, BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- Chapter 3 revised and Appendix E added to identify items noted above.

## NEPA-HEPA COMPLIANCE

- HEPA references added where applicable.
- Appendix A added to show EIS compliance with NEPA and HEPA.

## LAND USE

- Section clarifies that the future method of retention would be negotiated at fair market value and assumes that revenue would be used for State programs in accordance with Admission Act Section 5(f) and HRS 171-18, Public Land Trust.
- Section modified to discuss Proposed Action compatibility with HAR Chapter 13-5, Conservation District.

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

- Section clarifies that the EIS complies with the requirements of NEPA and HEPA and is not intended to address compliance requirements under NHPA or HRS Chapter 6E.
- Section revised with information from interviewees who responded to a second request for input in December 2022.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- The EIS better characterizes the continued effects on Native Hawaiians in the broader context of inequity, cultural values, and access to culturally important sites, and provides mitigation measures as available.



# Overview of the Proposed Action

## Proposed Action

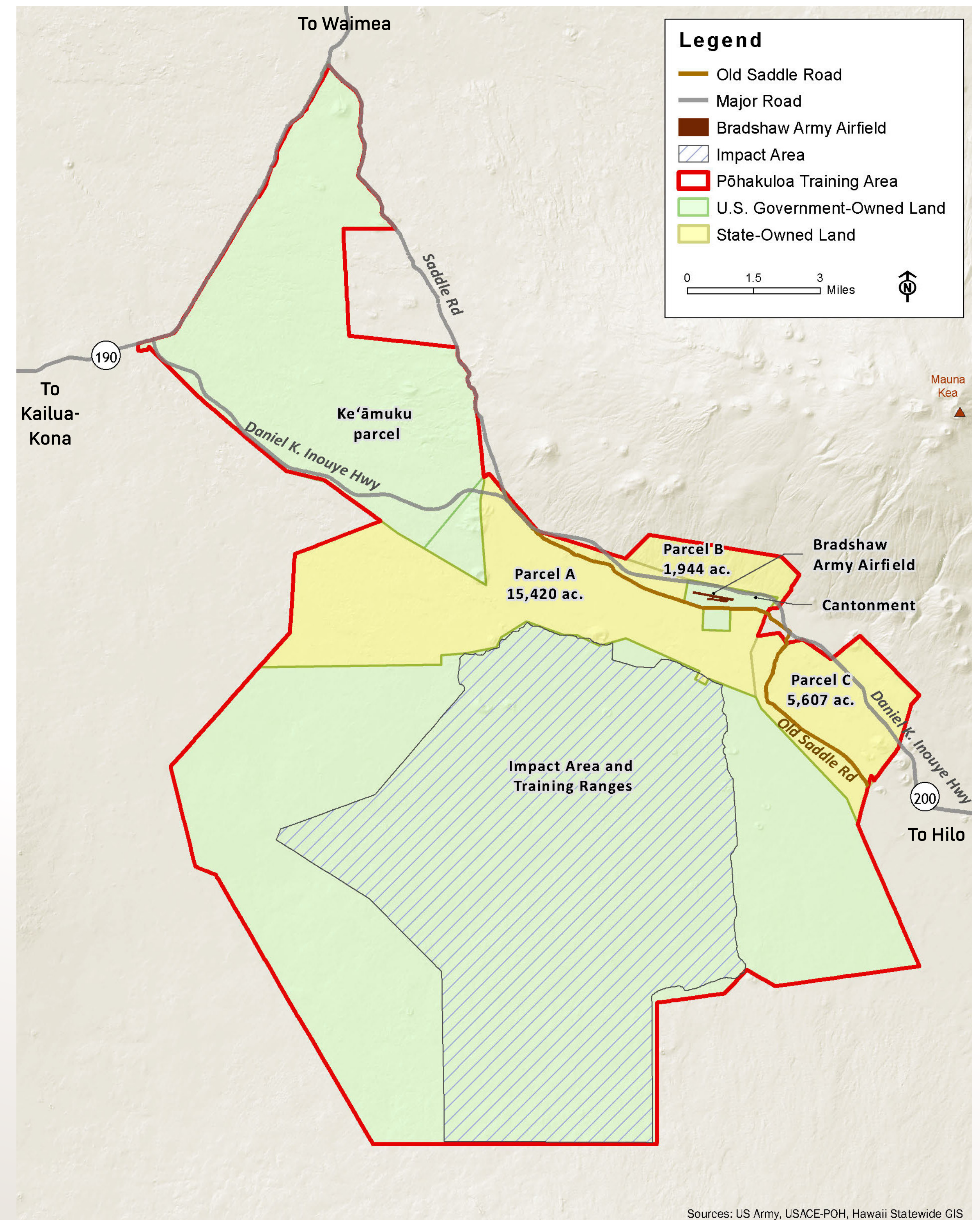
- To retain up to approximately 22,750 acres of the 23,000 acres of State-owned land at PTA in support of continued military training. Multiple land retention estates and methods could be used.
- To arrange for retention of the State-owned land prior to the end of the lease to prevent interruption of 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 preserve limited maneuver area, provide austere environment training, enable access among major parcels of U.S. Government-owned land in PTA, retain substantial Army infrastructure investments, allow for future facility and infrastructure modernization, and maximize use of the impact area in support of U.S. Army Hawaii-coordinated training.



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

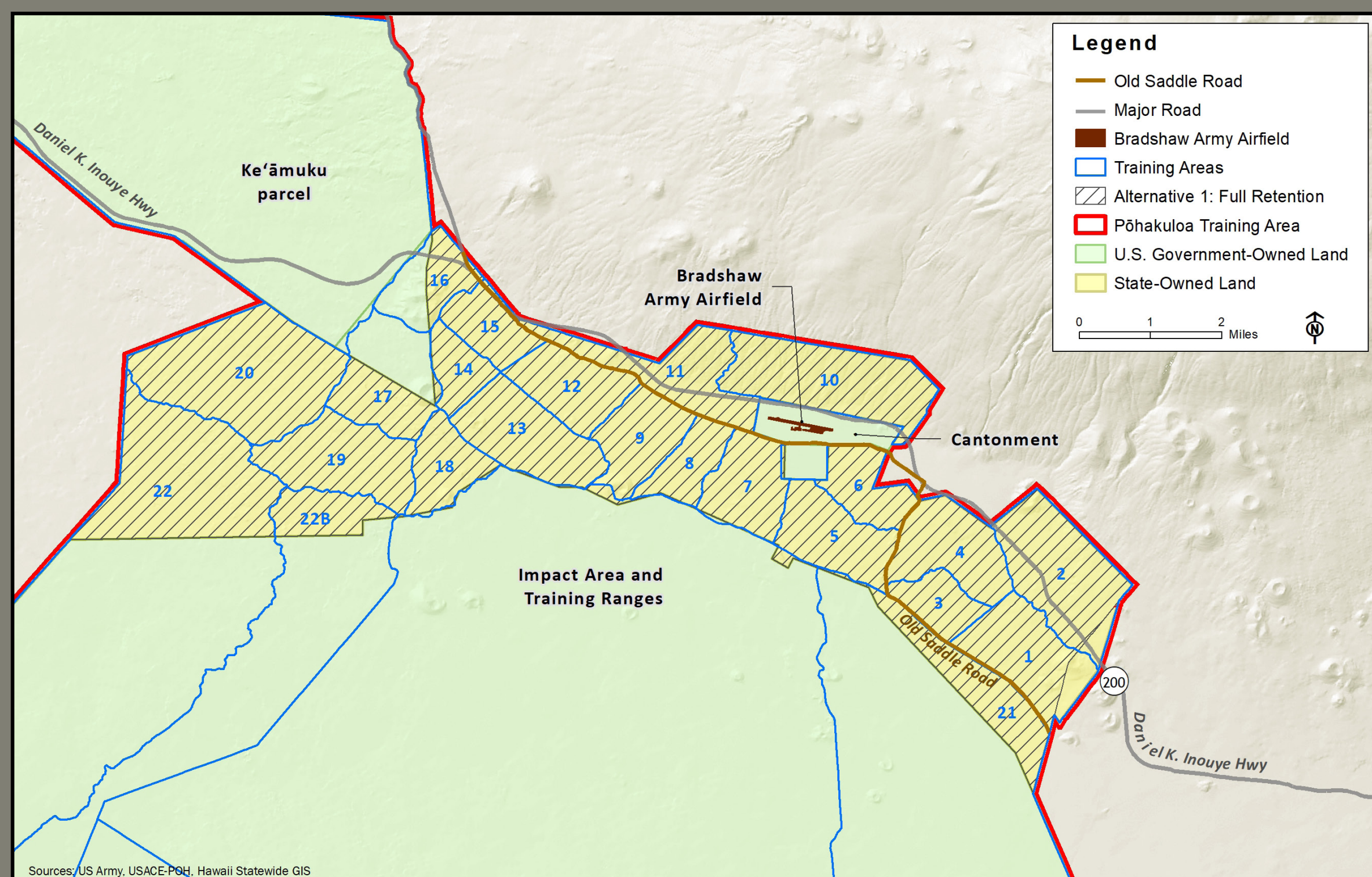
Map Credit: G70





# Alternatives 1 and 2

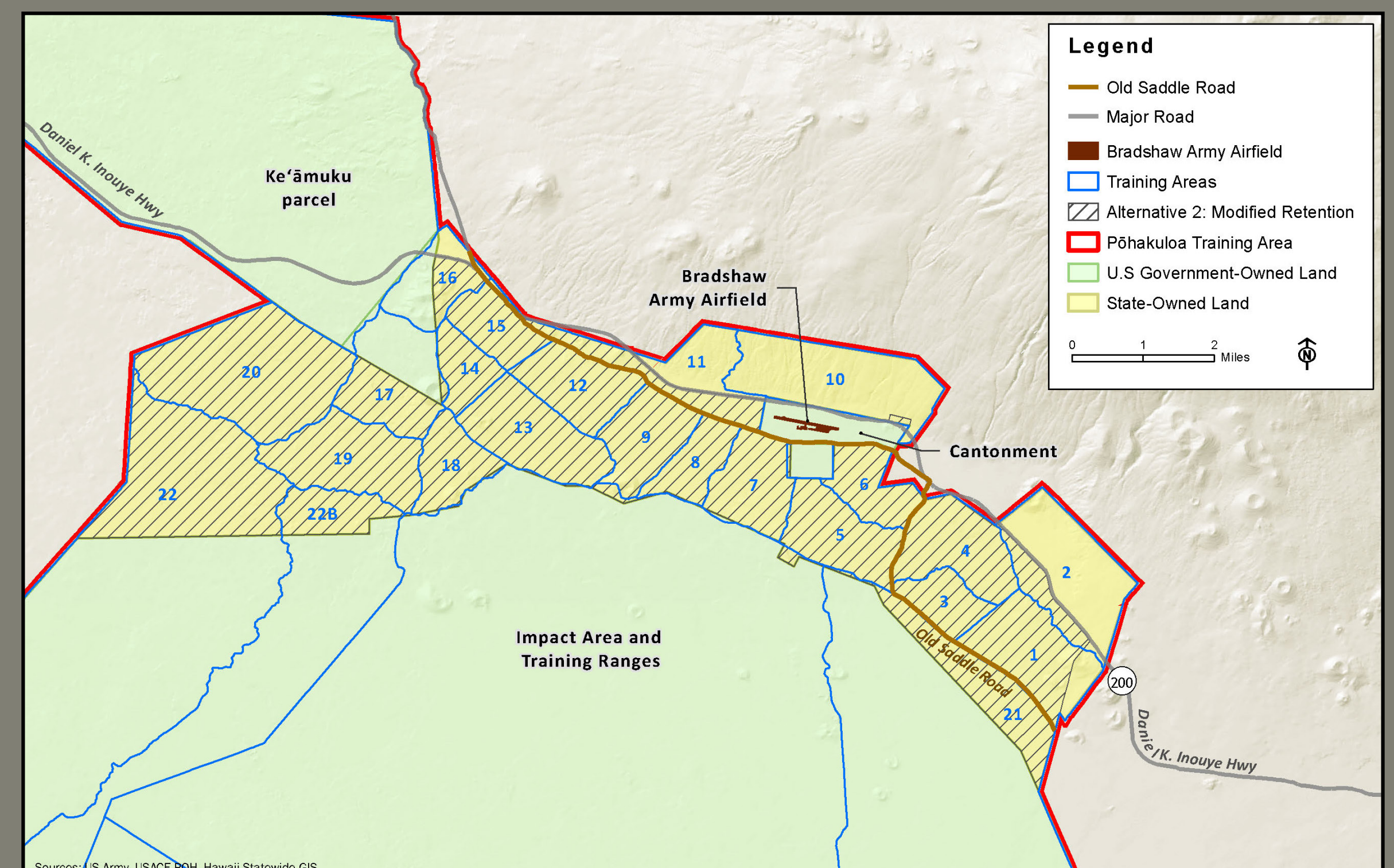
## Alternative 1: Maximum Retention



Map Credit: G70

Under Alternative 1, 22,750 acres of State-owned land would be retained. Additionally, the Army would retain all U.S. Government-owned utilities and associated access in the State-owned land.

## Alternative 2: Modified Retention



Map Credit: G70

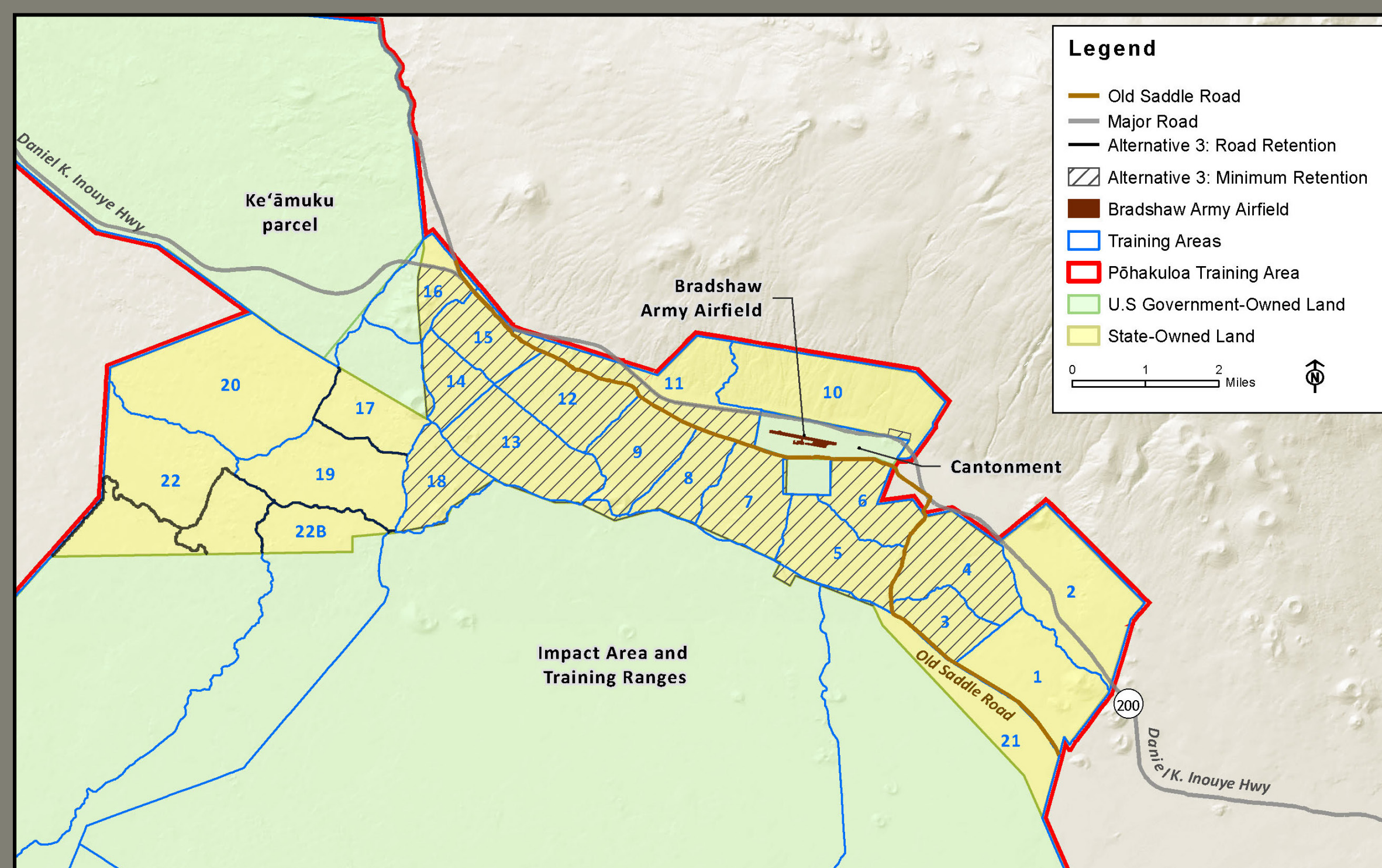
Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain approximately 19,700 acres of the State-owned land at PTA. Additionally, the Army would retain all U.S. Government-owned utilities and associated access in the State-owned land. The Army's Preferred Alternative is Alternative 2.





# 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

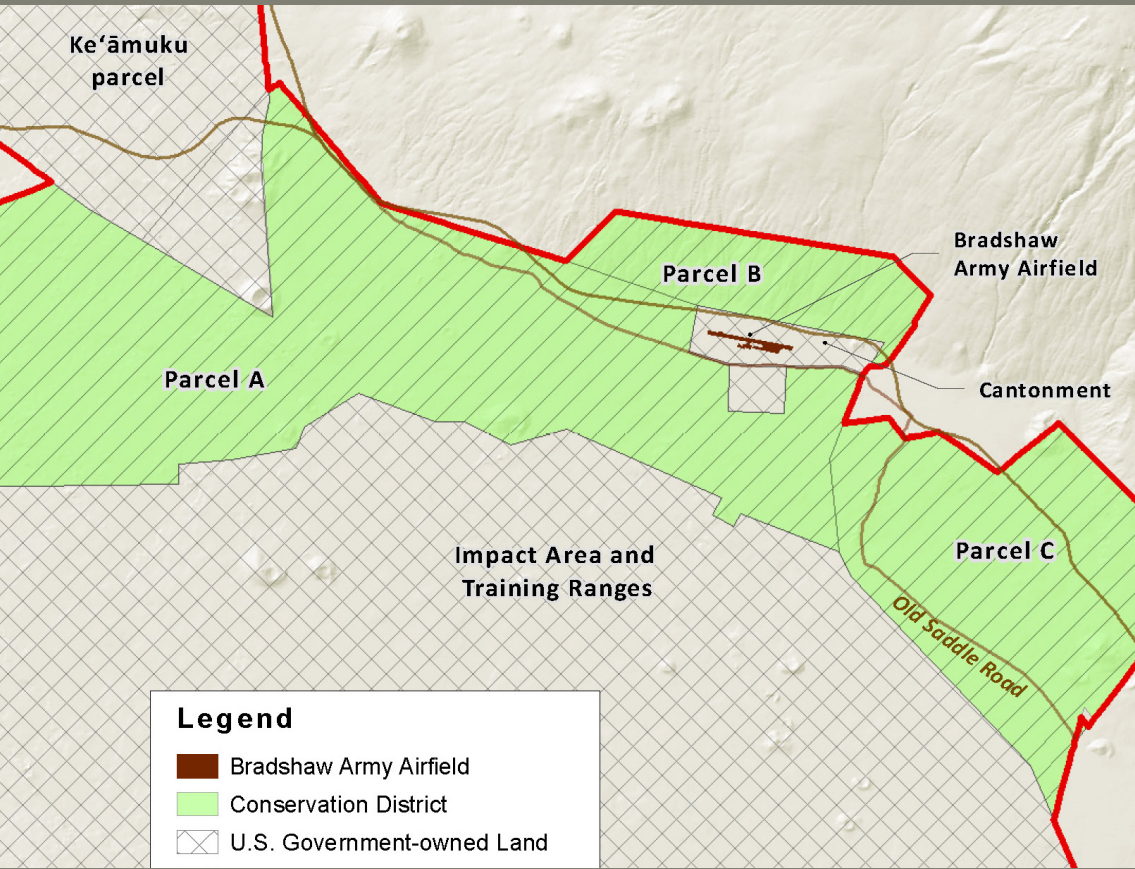
Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not retain any of the State-owned land at PTA after lease expiration.





# Analyzed Environmental Topics

## Land Use



Land use compatibility, recreation, vistas, and encroachment management

## Biological Resources



Vegetation and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, and wildland fires

## Historic and Cultural Resources and Cultural Practices



Archaeological and cultural resources, cultural practices, hunting, gathering, and cultural beliefs, uses, and access

## Hazardous Substances and Hazardous Wastes



Hazardous substances and wastes, petroleum products, storage tanks, munitions and explosives of concern, and depleted uranium

## Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases



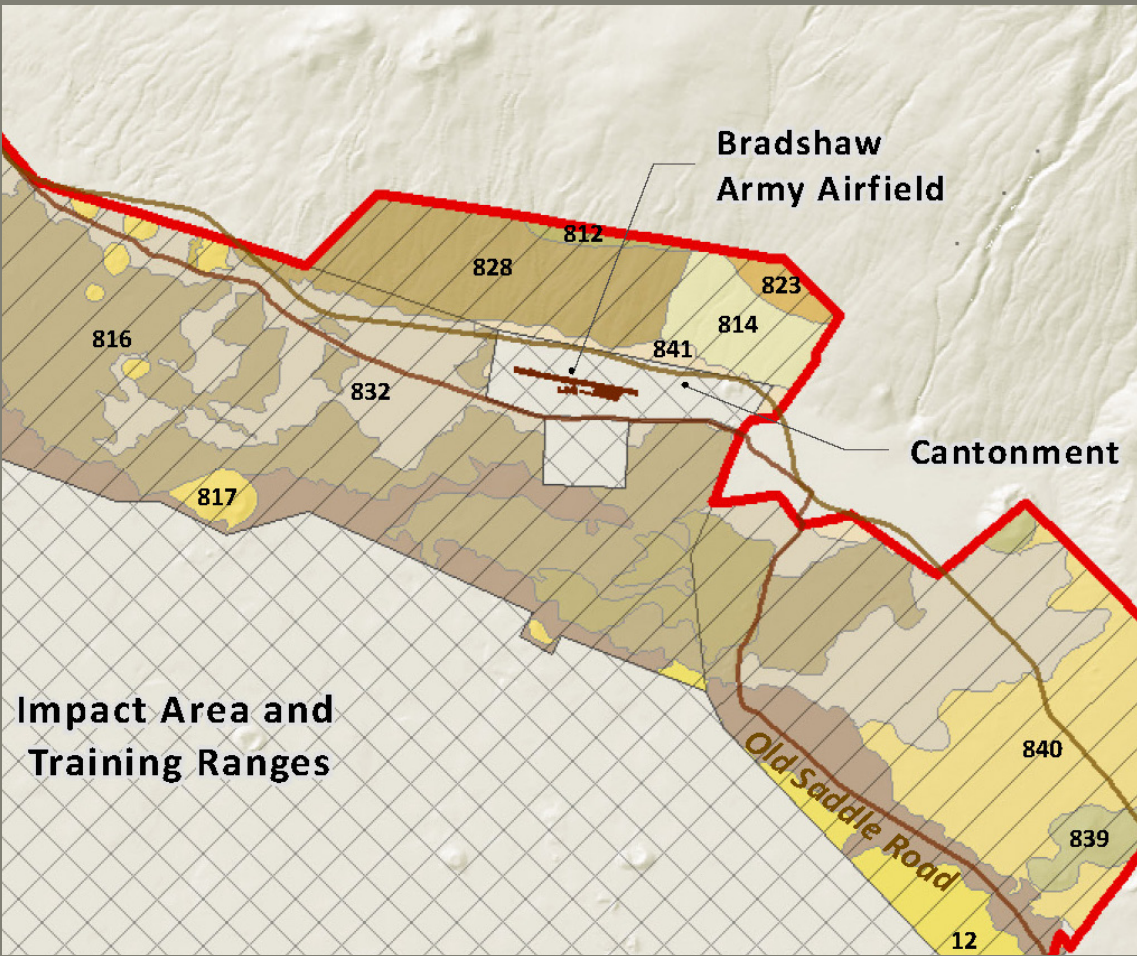
Ambient Air Quality Standards, Prevention of Significant Deterioration, and dust

## Noise



Zones and community and wildlife impacts

## Geological & Soil Resources



Bedrock, seismology, volcanology, soil properties, and erosion

## Water Resources



Surface water and groundwater





# Analyzed Environmental Topics

## Socioeconomics



Demographics, housing, economic development, recreation

## Environmental Justice



Impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns and protection of children

## Transportation & Traffic



Roadways, air transportation, traffic volume and level of congestion

## Airspace



Controlled airspace, Special Use Airspace and Military Operation Areas

## Electromagnetic Spectrum



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

## Utilities



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

## Human Health & Safety



Health, safety and safety danger zones





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# Potential Environmental Impacts

Resource	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	No Action Alternative
Land Use	⊗ ⊗ / ⊗ / +	⊗ ⊗ / ⊗ / +	⊗ ⊗ / ⊗ / +	+
Biological Resources	⊗ / ⊗ / ⊗	⊗ / ⊗ / ⊗	⊗ / ⊗ / ⊗	⊗
Historic and Cultural Resources and Cultural Practices	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙ ⊗ / ⊗ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙ ⊗ / ⊗ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙ ⊗ / ⊗ / ⊙	⊙ +
Hazardous Substances and Hazardous Wastes	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Noise	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Geology, Topography and Soils	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Water Resources	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Socioeconomics	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊗
Environmental Justice	⊗ / ⊗ / +	⊗ / ⊗ / +	⊗ / ⊗ / +	+
Transportation and Traffic	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Airspace	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Electromagnetic Spectrum	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙
Utilities	⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙	⊗
Human Health and Safety	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙ / ⊙ / ⊙	⊙

⊗ significant, adverse impact

⊙ less than significant impact

⊗ significant, adverse impact but could be reduced + significant, beneficial impact

Slash marks separate the level of impact for fee simple title, lease, and any land not retained in the corresponding Alternative.





# Thank You