

**ARMY TRAINING LAND RETENTION
OF STATE LANDS AT KAHUKU TRAINING AREA,
KAWAILOA-POAMOHO TRAINING AREA, AND
MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION,
ISLAND OF O'AHU
RECORD OF DECISION**

August 2025



U.S. ARMY

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RECORD OF DECISION

Based on the analysis of the Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area and Makua Military Reservation, Island of O'ahu, Environmental Impact Statement, the United States Army (Army) has decided pursue retention of 450 acres of land at Kahuku Training Area, O'ahu, Hawai'i.

1.0 Background

The Army conducts training to meet its federally mandated mission of readiness based on national and Army security and defense strategies. In the State of Hawai'i (State), U.S. Army Hawaii (USARHAW) primarily conducts training on O'ahu and Hawai'i Islands. They include multiple training areas where USARHAW units can complete mission-essential tasks. Training opportunities on O'ahu support the Army's role in the defense of the United States. USARHAW and other military and local agencies rely on the capacity of the O'ahu training areas to meet agency-specific mission and readiness requirements. These training activities ensure unit readiness to perform combat operations in support of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) theater strategy.

There are seven Army-managed training areas on O'ahu used by USARHAW to meet mission requirements. The U.S. Government leases approximately 6,322 acres of land on O'ahu from the State for military training at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho), and Makua Military Reservation (MMR). These lands are referred to as "State-owned lands" in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The 65-year leases of the State-owned lands expire on August 16, 2029. Over the past six decades, these State-owned lands have been an important component of the approximately 18,000 acres of Army training areas at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR. Portions of the State-owned lands are critical to the Army mission because they provide access to and among the U.S. Government-controlled O'ahu training areas, act as buffers between public lands and training activities, and support training facilities and capabilities that are essential to USARHAW, other military services, and local agencies.

This FEIS provided Army senior leaders with a comprehensive review of potential environmental impacts associated with the alternatives and the No Action Alternative and informs the decision-making process for selecting an alternative for implementation. The FEIS meets the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA). The FEIS is incorporated by reference into this Record of Decision (ROD). The Army selects the preferred alternative identified in the FEIS, Alternative 2, for retention of 450 acres at KTA, the No Action Alternative for Poamoho, and the No Action Alternative for MMR.

2.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to enable USARHAW and other users to secure the long-term military use of State-owned lands on O'ahu, for which the leases expire in 2029. The objective is for the Army to retain use of these training lands for ongoing military training and to meet combat readiness requirements on Army-managed lands in Hawai'i.

The Proposed Action is needed to provide austere training environments for USARHAW and other DoD units, preserve critical training areas, enable access to and among U.S. Government-controlled lands on O'ahu, provide a buffer from encroachment and accidental or intentional trespass on U.S. Government-controlled land, retain infrastructure investments, and allow for future facility and infrastructure modernization.

Retention of some State-owned land is needed to meet USARHAW training requirements for Hawai'i-based units, particularly with respect to the austere training environments combined with varied maneuver training areas that the O'ahu topography provides for squad to company-sized units. The landscape found in these training areas, particularly the dense jungle environment, is critical to a realistic training environment. The Army requires large quantities of land, away from populated areas and with adequate buffers for both soldier and public safety, to provide the training necessary to maintain soldier readiness for rapid deployment. Land retention allows the Army to continue ongoing and potential future training activities conducted on or over the State-owned lands that are required to support the military mission, including UAS, helicopter, and other aircraft operations, and soldier maneuver and reconnaissance training. State-owned lands on O'ahu also provide access to and among U.S. Government-controlled lands, such as access to the western part of KTA, providing sufficient maneuver area that is critical to Army training.

Critical facilities (e.g., X-Strip landing zone [LZ] at KTA) and infrastructure (e.g., range roads) are located on State-owned lands within the O'ahu training areas. Federal directives, such as 10 U.S.C. Section 2852: *Military construction projects: waiver of certain restrictions* and Army Regulation (AR) 405-10, *Acquisition of Real Property and Interests Therein*, specify that to carry out military improvements or modernization efforts, a long-term interest (i.e., at least 25 years) in the land must be acquired. With fewer than five years remaining on the leases of State-owned lands, these directives limit the Army's ability to invest in potential future improvements.

Other military units (e.g., U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)) use these training areas to meet operational readiness requirements for their respective agency missions. These training areas are also used for periodic joint and/or multinational training and by other State and local agencies.

Loss of the State-owned lands would result in impacts to mission-critical training because the Army would no longer have access to these maneuver training areas, training features, and infrastructure.

3.0 Proposed Action

The Army proposes to retain up to approximately 6,322 acres of State-owned lands on O'ahu at KTA, Poamoho, and MMR in support of continued military training. Retention of all or a part of the approximately 6,322 acres of State-owned land would occur by acquiring a land interest allowing continued military use. The Proposed Action does not include a defined land retention method or duration because that would be negotiated with the State.

The Army intends to secure a land interest for continued military use of the State-owned land prior to expiration of the 1964 lease (on August 16, 2029) to ensure uninterrupted training. Following a negotiated retention of the State-owned land, the Army will continue to conduct ongoing Army activities (i.e., military training; facility, utility, and infrastructure maintenance and repair activities; cultural and natural resource

management actions; and associated activities such as emergency services) on the State-owned land retained. The Army will continue to permit and coordinate current activities (training and other activities such as public use programs) by other training area users, including other Department of Defense (DoD) agencies, international partners, local agencies, and the community on the State-owned land retained by the Army.

The Proposed Action is a real estate transaction (i.e., administrative action) that would enable continuation of current activities on the State-owned land retained by the Army. It does not include construction, modernization, or changes to current activities on the State-owned land retained. Additionally, the Proposed Action does not include changes to the use, size, or configuration of the Special Use Airspace overlying the State-owned land. Any future changes to training or military construction would be subject to separate NEPA analyses.

Current activities, including military training, within the State-owned land were previously analyzed, where required, in separate NEPA documents. The Army adheres to multiple best management practices (BMP), standard operating procedures (SOP), and mitigation measures, to implement ongoing environmental monitoring and conservation efforts related to training within the State-owned land. The Army will continue to execute these BMPs, SOPs, and mitigation measures under the Proposed Action.

The FEIS presented the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action (land retention), continuation of current activities on State-owned land retained, ending current activities on State-owned land not retained, lease compliance actions, cleanup and restoration activities, and mitigation measures. If future cleanup and restoration activities differ from those assumed in this FEIS, they would not require subsequent NEPA analysis. Cleanup will be through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) which has its own decision-making and remedy- selection procedures and is not subject to NEPA analysis.

After the lease expires, in accordance with the lease terms, federal and Army laws and regulations, or otherwise negotiated with the State, the Army would conduct various compliance actions within the State-owned land not retained. These include reforestation, removing signs, removing or abandoning structures, and removing weapons and shells (e.g., bullet casings, mortar shells, artillery shells, rifle shells). Lease compliance actions are guided by the terms/conditions of the current lease and negotiations, after this ROD is executed, with the State.

In accordance with the lease terms and under the provisions of existing law, the Army retains responsibility for cleanup and restoration activities of closed ranges (i.e., State-owned land not retained); therefore, after the current lease ends, the Army will follow federal law (CERCLA) and regulations to determine how and when cleanup and restoration activities within the State-owned land not retained would occur, which is separate from this NEPA process.

4.0 Alternatives

The NEPA process requires consideration of reasonable alternatives for the Proposed Action. To be considered reasonable, alternatives must satisfy the purpose and need for the Proposed Action and meet the screening criteria discussed below. The alternatives carried forward for detailed analysis in the EIS are a practical representation of the range of reasonable alternatives regarding the amount (e.g., full, modified, and minimum) and location of State-owned land retained. The FEIS analyzed the potential

impacts associated with these reasonable alternatives. Additionally, NEPA requires the inclusion of a No Action Alternative. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, it is analyzed in detail in the FEIS.

The Army established screening criteria to identify potential alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. The Army used the following screening criteria to assess whether each alternative was reasonable and would be carried forward for evaluation in the EIS. The alternatives must:

1. Allow for long-term use, maintenance, repair, and future modernization (future modernization is not currently planned and would require separate, future NEPA and HEPA analysis, as applicable) of vital ranges, facilities, U.S. Government-owned utilities, and infrastructure on the State-owned land in support of ongoing USARHAW training and operational requirements.
2. Include long-term use of contiguous unrestricted maneuver area to accommodate continued collective training, including live-fire and maneuver exercises.
3. Include long-term access to the State-owned land permitting continuation of ongoing activities (training, maintenance and repair activities, resource management actions, emergency services, public use programs) on the State-owned land and U.S. Government-owned land.
4. Be cost effective, fiscally allowable by federal statutes and regulations, and meet the requirements of DoD's approved Major Land Acquisition Waiver Request.

Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 adequately met all screening criteria and were carried forward for detailed analysis in the FEIS.

4.1 Alternative 1: Full Retention

Under Alternative 1, the Army would retain approximately 6,322 acres of the State-owned land at KTA (1,150 acres), Poamoho (4,390 acres), and MMR (782 acres), including all U.S. Government-owned facilities, utilities, and infrastructure within the State-owned land retained.

Alternative 1 would allow the Army to continue to manage and use approximately 6,322 acres of the State-owned land; maintain unrestricted access among training facilities; conduct ongoing military training, maintenance and repair activities, resource management actions, and associated activities; retain all of its investment in facilities, utilities, and infrastructure on the State-owned land; continue military training and other activities without downtime; and enable future modernization (which is not currently planned and would require separate, future NEPA and/or HEPA analysis) of the retained facilities, utilities, and infrastructure within the State-owned land. The Army would continue to permit and coordinate ongoing training and other activities by training area users on the State-owned land retained. This alternative would have negligible potential for encroachment (i.e., outside actions that inhibit normal military training and operations) and accidental or intentional trespass on U.S. Government-owned land from adjacent properties because the Army would continue to control access to most of the State-owned land.

4.2 Alternative 2: Modified Retention (Selected Alternative for KTA)

Under Alternative 2, the Army would retain Tract A-1 of State-owned land at KTA (450 acres), the Poamoho Tract (3,170 acres) at Poamoho, and the North Ridge, Center and South Ridge Tracts at MMR (572 acres), including all U.S. Government-owned facilities, utilities, and infrastructure within the State-owned land retained. Alternative 2 would allow the Army to continue to manage and use approximately

4,192 acres of the State-owned land on O'ahu; maintain unrestricted access among training facilities; conduct ongoing military training, maintenance and repair activities, resource management actions, and associated activities; and retain most of its investment in facilities, utilities, and infrastructure on the State-owned land. The Army would continue to permit and coordinate ongoing training and other activities by other users on the State-owned land retained.

The lands not retained under Alternative 2 are not actively used for ground training or other programs and will have a negligible impact on military training and readiness or resource management programs.

4.3 Alternative 3: Minimum Retention and Access

Alternative 3 only applies to State-owned land at MMR. Under this alternative, the Army would retain only approximately 162 acres of State-owned land in the Center Tract, including approximately 2.4 miles of firebreak roads, range roads, and the training and support facilities (and associated vital maneuver area) located between the firebreaks along the northern and southern borders of the tract that cannot be relocated within U.S. Government-owned land at MMR. This alternative would enable sustained access to training features, including firebreak and range roads and the associated maneuver training lands that overlap both the State-owned and U.S. Government-owned land. The Army would no longer have access to the maneuver training lands and support facilities on the North Ridge, Makai, or South Ridge Tracts.

4.4 No Action Alternative (Selected Alternative for Poamoho and MMR)

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not retain any of the State-owned land after the lease expires and would therefore no longer fund or manage natural or cultural resource and protection programs or public use programs in the State-owned land. The Army would meet ongoing biological resources mitigation requirements (e.g., conservation fence units) on the State-owned land or an alternative mitigation option negotiated with the USFWS and the State, as applicable. After the lease expires and in accordance with the lease terms, or otherwise negotiated with the State, the Army would conduct various lease compliance actions on the State-owned land not retained.

Per Executive Order 11166, granting the U.S. Government fee interest in the Makua Valley, the Army would continue to have access to U.S. Government-owned lands at MMR.

5.0 Public Involvement

The Army provided several opportunities for the public to participate in the NEPA process and thoroughly considered the public's comments in reaching its decision. These opportunities included a 40-day public scoping process, a 60-day public review period for the Draft EIS, and publication of the FEIS accompanied by a 30-day waiting period before a final decision was made and this ROD was issued.

The Army invited federal, state, and local agencies, Native Hawaiian organizations, and the public to participate in all phases of the NEPA process. Additionally, a public notice, in the local newspaper on multiple days, was used to notify the public of the Army's intent to develop an EIS and to provide information regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives and to notify them of the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. The public notices were published in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* newspaper on three separate dates for scoping, Draft EIS, and FEIS publications. Additionally, postcards with similar information were mailed via U.S. Postal Service to approximately 120 individual, agency, and organization stakeholders. Stakeholders consisted of individuals and organizations from contact lists maintained by the

Army for O'ahu-related issues, regulatory agencies, and elected officials whose jurisdiction includes O'ahu installations. Publication affidavits and mailing notifications are available in the FEIS at **Appendix C**.

All comments were reviewed and substantive comments were considered, addressed and incorporated at each stage of public involvement and reflected in the respective NEPA documents. Oral comments were accepted at public meetings and through a dedicated phone line open during the 48-hour window of the public meetings. Written comments were accepted throughout the public comment periods using three methods: a comment form accessed via the project EIS website at <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/OahuEIS/project-home>, a letter via U.S. Postal Service mail, or a message to the Army email address (usarmy.hawaii.nepa@army.mil).

5.1 Public Scoping

A Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register (FR), alerting the public of the Army's intent to prepare an EIS was published on July 23, 2021 (86 FR 39007). The Army published an amendment to the NOI on August 6, 2021 (86 FR 43230) correcting the dates for the public scoping meetings. Although originally planned as a hybrid scoping meeting, the in-person portion was cancelled immediately ahead of the meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and the meeting was held virtually. The Army voluntarily chose to extend the NEPA scoping period to 40-days which concluded September 1, 2021.

5.2 Draft EIS

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS was published in the FR on June 7, 2024 (89 FR 48600). A 60-day public comment period was initiated on that date and ended on August 6, 2024. Public notices were published in local newspapers (June 7, June 21, and July 7, 2025), and postcards with similar information were mailed via U.S. Postal Service to approximately 180 individual, agency, and organization stakeholders, and elected officials (Table 8-1 in the FEIS). Draft EIS public meetings were conducted July 9-11, 2024, to provide information to the public and agencies and to facilitate oral and written comments.

5.3 Final EIS

The FEIS addressed substantive comments received on the Draft EIS and clarified information where relevant. **Appendix D** of the FEIS provided responses to the comments. The NOA of the FEIS was published in the FR on May 16, 2025 (90 FR 21014). Public notices for the FEIS publication were placed in local newspapers on May 16 and 25, 2025.

In addition to the standard NEPA public involvement process, key engagements with the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, stakeholders, and interested parties occurred throughout the NEPA process.

5.4 Comments received during the final EIS waiting period and whether they require supplementation

Following publication of the FEIS, a 30-day waiting period began during which time the Army received additional comments. None of the comments triggered a requirement to supplement the FEIS. Responses to those comments that are not adequately addressed in the FEIS are addressed here.

5.4.1 Cleanup of State-owned lands not retained

The Army received additional comments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Mālama Mākua, and comments were made during the May 9, 2025 BLNR hearing regarding cleaning up hazardous substances and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) on State-owned lands not retained. Cleanup is controlled and guided by the terms of the lease, federal statute, and negotiations with the State. Cleanup is discussed in the FEIS in Section 3.2. Cleanup scope and requirements are not part of the NEPA process and will occur through a separate process, also providing opportunities for public involvement, after publication of the ROD.

Because the cleanup process is thoroughly discussed in the FEIS, and is not part of the NEPA process, it does not represent new information or require supplementation of the FEIS.

6.0 Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures

The FEIS was prepared according to certain Executive Orders, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations, and the Army's NEPA implementing regulations, which are now rescinded. Because analysis regarding certain aspects of greenhouse gases and environmental justice was already provided to the public for comment in the Second Draft EIS, such analysis is included in the FEIS for transparency and continuity.

In making conclusions on impacts, the FEIS assumes compliance with all applicable regulations, BMPs, and SOPs. If compliance with applicable regulations and implementation of existing BMPs and SOPs are insufficient to reduce the intensity of an impact, the FEIS identifies project-specific mitigation measures to avoid or minimize new adverse impacts. Table 1 (Table ES-3 in the FEIS) provides a summary of the potential impacts of implementing each of the three action alternatives as well as the No Action Alternative. Significant adverse impacts were identified for land use, and cultural practices. Impacts for other resource areas were less than significant. Significant adverse impacts for the selected alternatives are limited to land use.

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Impacts				
Resource	Alternative	KTA	Poamoho	MMR
Land Use	Alternative 1	⊗/⊗	⊗/⊗	⊗/⊗
	Alternative 2	⊗/⊗/+	⊗/⊗/+	⊗/⊗/+
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊗/⊗/+
	No Action Alternative	+	+	+
Biological Resources	Alternative 1	○	○	○
	Alternative 2	○	○	○
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	○
	No Action Alternative	○	○	○
Historic and Cultural Resources	Alternative 1	○	○	○
	Alternative 2	○	○	○
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	○
	No Action Alternative	○	○	○
Cultural Practices	Alternative 1	○	○	⊗
	Alternative 2	○	○	⊗/⊗/○
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊗/⊗/○
	No Action Alternative	○	○	+
Hazardous Substances and Hazardous Wastes	Alternative 1	○	○	○
	Alternative 2	○	○	○
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	○
	No Action Alternative	○	○	○
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	Alternative 1	○	○	○
	Alternative 2	○	○	○
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	○
	No Action Alternative	○	○	○
Noise	Alternative 1	○	○	○
	Alternative 2	○	○	○
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	○
	No Action Alternative	○	○	○

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Impacts				
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Alternative 1	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 2	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊙
	No Action Alternative	⊙	⊙	⊙
Water Resources	Alternative 1	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 2	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊙
	No Action Alternative	⊙	⊙	⊙
Socioeconomics	Alternative 1	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 2	⊙/⊙/⊙	⊙/⊙/⊙	⊙/⊙/⊙
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊙/⊙/⊙
	No Action Alternative	⊙	⊙	⊙
Environmental Justice	Alternative 1	⊗	⊗	⊗
	Alternative 2	⊗	⊗	⊗
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊗
	No Action Alternative	+	+	+
Transportation and Traffic	Alternative 1	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 2	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊙
	No Action Alternative	⊙	⊙	⊙
Human Health and Safety	Alternative 1	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 2	⊙	⊙	⊙
	Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	⊙
	No Action Alternative	⊙	⊙	⊙

LEGEND

- ⊗ = significant adverse impact
- ⊙ = significant adverse impact but reduced to less than significant
- ⊕ = significant beneficial impact
- ⊙ = less than significant impact
- = no impact

Note: Only one impact symbol is shown where there is no difference between lease, fee simple title, and/or land not retained significance impact levels. Where the overall significance impact is different between lease, fee simple title, and/or land not retained, all impacts are presented in the table in the following order—i.e., lease impacts/fee simple title impacts/land not retained impacts—and separated by slash marks. Alternative 1 does not have land not retained, so it only shows lease and fee simple title significance impact levels.

For the selected alternative at KTA, retention of Tract A-1, significant impacts were limited to land use impacts:

Land Retained

Lease Impacts:

New long-term, significant, adverse impacts on land tenure, which could be reduced to less than significant through special subzone and special permit approvals; new long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts on land tenure from new lease revenue to State programs to benefit Native Hawaiians and the public; continued long-term, negligible, adverse impacts from public trust land being used for military use; continued long-term, significant adverse impacts because land use would be incompatible with public land trust through duration of the lease; and continued long-term, minor, adverse impacts on recreation from restricted access.

Fee Simple Title Impacts:

New long-term, significant, adverse, impacts on land tenure from transfer of land control and ownership to U.S. Government; new long-term, minor, beneficial impacts on land tenure from land sale proceeds for Native Hawaiian and public programs; new long-term, significant, adverse impact from elimination of potential future revenue and future land use by the State; and continued long-term, minor, adverse impacts on recreation from restricted access.

Land Not Retained

New long-term, significant, beneficial impacts on land tenure through State control of the land for public trust purposes; new long-term, negligible, beneficial impact from the end of non-conforming land use status in the conservation district; new long-term, minor, beneficial impacts on recreation from decreased restrictions; new short-term, negligible, adverse impacts on recreation from lease compliance actions and cleanup and restoration activities; new long-term, minor, adverse impacts on encroachment management from the loss of Army control over adjacent U.S. Government-controlled land.

Level of Significance – Significant adverse impacts and adverse impacts reduced to less than significant for lease or significant adverse impacts for fee simple title, and significant beneficial impacts for land not retained.

Mitigation - No mitigation measures are recommended beyond existing management measures and acquisition at fair market value. For all other resource areas, no mitigation measures are recommended beyond the existing management measures discussed in each resource section in the FEIS, Chapter 3, and the BMPs and SOPs discussed in Appendix E.

7.0 Decision

We have considered all analyses and results in the FEIS, which is incorporated by reference, comments provided during public comment and review periods, and the Army Mission requirements. The FEIS assessed the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives on the human, cultural, and natural environments. Based on this thorough review, we have determined on behalf of the Army that the Army will proceed with Alternative 2 (the preferred alternative in the FEIS), modified retention of approximately 450 acres of State-owned land at KTA; and the No Action Alternative for both Poamoho and MMR. These alternatives are summarized in Section 4.2 and 4.4 of this ROD and described fully in Chapter 2 of the FEIS.

Under Alternative 2 at KTA, the Army will continue current activities on the State-owned land retained. Alternative 2 includes the following Army actions and responsibilities:

- Continue to conduct Army ongoing activities (training, maintenance and repair activities, resource management actions, and associated activities such as emergency services) on the State-owned land retained (approximately 450 acres).
- Continue to permit and coordinate other KTA users' ongoing activities (training and other activities such as public use programs) on the State-owned land retained.
- Continue to use, maintain, and repair U.S. Government-owned utilities on the State-owned land not retained to ensure their operability for U.S. Government-owned land and State-owned land retained.

The following Army actions and responsibilities are not specifically listed as part of the selected alternative but will be triggered when the leases expire for the State-owned land not retained at KTA under Alternative 2 (Tract A-3), and Poamoho and MMR under the No Action Alternative (approximately 5,872 acres):

- Once the lease expires, in accordance with the lease terms or otherwise negotiated with the State, the Army will conduct various lease compliance actions within the State-owned land not retained.
- In accordance with the lease terms and under the provisions of existing law, the Army retains responsibility for cleanup and restoration of closed ranges (i.e., State-owned land not retained). Therefore, after the current lease expires, the Army will follow federal laws and regulations to determine how and when cleanup and restoration activities for hazardous substances and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) within the State-owned land not retained would occur. This includes the CERCLA process that has its own public involvement and decision process, fulfilling the functions of NEPA analysis.

Lease compliance actions and cleanup and restoration for hazardous and toxic materials and wastes, including MEC, within the State-owned land not retained is explained in Section 2.1 of the FEIS.

As noted in the FEIS, only after execution of the ROD will the Army consider the appropriate land retention estate(s) and method(s) based on the selected alternative.

8.0 Rationale for the Decision


The decision to implement Alternative 2 at KTA and the No Action Alternative at Poamoho and MMR is based on consideration of the full analyses of all alternatives contained in the FEIS, comments provided during formal public comment and review periods, and an evaluation of the ability of each alternative to meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. The decision is further supported by a thorough reevaluation of land utilization, training requirements, and readiness conducted between the Draft and Final EISs. Thus, the relative strengths and weaknesses of each alternative were considered to meet the Army's need for the Proposed Action.

Pursuant to that detailed analysis and consideration of all alternatives, Alternative 2 at KTA (retention of Tract A-1) was selected for implementation because it best meets the Army's training needs while balancing the Army's obligations for stewardship of the environment. Decision makers for the Army were fully informed about the range of impacts to sensitive environmental and cultural resources. Alternative 2

reduces the leased State-owned land area at KTA by approximately 700 acres (Tract A-3). Key training features on Tract A-1, including the X-Strip, are critical for the full range of training opportunities for military readiness and warfighting.

Following publication of the Draft EIS for O'ahu and consideration of public and agency comments, the Army re-examined training land requirements and utilization for the state-leased lands at Poamoho and MMR. Careful deliberation and consultation with community leaders resulted in a determination that the leased land at MMR (782 acres) is not required to meet readiness or warfighting capabilities, particularly with the elimination of live-fire training at MMR. There is currently no ground training at Poamoho, and a re-evaluation of training requirements and land use determined that those lands (4,390 acres) are no longer required for current training or future training expansion.


In reaching this decision, we considered the positives and negatives of all alternatives. We balanced concerns of national policy on the one hand and environmental impacts of the alternatives on the other. The selected alternative, retaining the 450-acre Tract A-1 parcel at KTA and allowing the leases to expire at MMR, Poamoho, and the remaining KTA tract, fully meets the purpose and need for the Proposed Action while not unnecessarily retaining control of lands not actively used or required. Not retaining nearly 6,000 acres of State-owned land provides maximum benefit to the Hawaiian community without negatively affecting readiness or training opportunities on O'ahu. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the selected alternative have been adopted.



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