



Press Release

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Army publishes final EIS for proposed land retention on the island of O‘ahu

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawai‘i (May 16, 2025) – The U.S. Army prepared a final environmental impact statement regarding its proposed retention of up to approximately 6,322 acres of state-owned lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation on the island of O‘ahu to support continued military training.

Of the approximately 18,000 total acres at these three sites, the Army leases around 6,322 acres from the state. However, the Army’s 65-year leases of the state-owned lands will expire in August 2029. The state-owned lands include 1,150 acres at KTA, 4,390 acres at Poamoho, and 782 acres at MMR, which are used by Army units and other military entities, including the U.S. Marine Corps and the Hawai‘i Army National Guard.

Located in northeast O‘ahu, KTA has been the site of military training since the mid-1950s. Current activities on state-owned land at KTA include company-level helicopter training in a tactical environment, large-scale ground maneuver training, and air support training.

Located on the western slopes of the Ko‘olau Mountains in north-central O‘ahu, Poamoho has been the site of military training since 1964 and provides ideal airspace, ravines, and deep vegetation for realistic helicopter training.

Located in northwest O‘ahu, MMR has been a military training site for nearly 100 years. Tactical training and exercises at MMR began in 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor and continue to this day. Current activities on state-owned lands at MMR include maneuver training, the use of restricted airspace for unmanned aerial vehicle training, and wildland fire suppression and security activities.

The Army published a draft EIS in June 2024. All comments received on the 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 of availability has been published in the Federal Register to announce the availability of the EIS, which will also be published in the State Environmental Review Program’s publication, the Environmental Notice.

For each of the three training areas, the EIS evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives. These alternatives are: (1) full retention; (2) modified retention; (3) minimum retention (for MMR only); and (4) the no-action alternative, under which the leases would lapse in 2029 and military use of the state-owned land at each training area would cease. The Army identified the modified-retention alternative at KTA, and the no-action alternative at Poamoho and MMR, as the preferred alternatives.

The EIS indicates that under the action alternatives, significant adverse impacts could occur for land use (i.e., land tenure) and environmental justice at all three areas, and for cultural practices at MMR. The no-action alternative could have a significant beneficial impact on land use and environmental justice at all areas, and on cultural practices at MMR.

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 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, after which 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 key stakeholders, and local libraries. The EIS and related information are available on the EIS website at: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/OahuEIS/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.