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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO COMPLETE THE MAKUA VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, HALT ALL ACTIVITIES IN MAKUA VALLEY, AND INITIATE CLEAN UP TO RETURN MAKUA VALLEY TO FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR HOMELANDS GENERATIONS AGO.

1 WHEREAS, Makua Valley is a sacred place to native Hawaiians  
2 and the mythic birthplace of the Hawaiian people; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, located along the Waianae Range, on the dry,  
5 leeward side of Oahu, Makua Valley is a lush, green, 4,190-acre  
6 coastal valley hemmed in by mountains that the native Hawaiians  
7 call "Makua"; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, Makua Valley contains many ancient Hawaiian  
10 artifacts and cultural sites and is home to nearly 50 endangered  
11 plant and animal species, including the Oahu tree snail and  
12 'elepaio; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, in ancient times the ahupuaa of Makua was home to  
15 a small Hawaiian population that farmed kalo and 'uala and  
16 fished the rich waters of the Waianae Coast; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, in the late 19th century, a large portion of Makua  
19 Valley's government and kuleana lands were converted into the  
20 Lincoln McCandless Ranch, before giving way to the Makua  
21 Military Reservation, and many of the valley's still-intact lava  
22 rock walls date to this era; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, community organization Malama Makua cited  
25 archaeological evidence indicating that Makua Valley had a  
26 thriving Hawaiian community before European contact; and



1 WHEREAS, Makua Beach is used by the Waianae community as a  
2 social and cultural gathering space, especially in recent years  
3 as the coast's homeless population has increased; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, since Malama Makua was able to secure regular  
6 public access trips in 2002, the valley's potential as a  
7 cultural and environmental learning tool has and continues to  
8 grow; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, community members are slowly reshaping the valley  
11 with a different vision for its future as they have already  
12 restored a previously hidden spring and have participated in the  
13 clearing of unexploded ordnance; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, while Makua Valley looks like paradise from afar,  
16 the valley has been caught in the line of fire and has absorbed  
17 decades of live-fire training exercises by the United States  
18 military; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941, native  
21 Hawaiian families that had lived for generations in Makua Valley  
22 were evicted and told that their lands would be returned six  
23 months after the cessation of hostilities, but the military has  
24 been in control of Makua Valley ever since; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, the use of Makua Valley by the United States  
27 military dates back to 1929, but it was not until 1943 that the  
28 valley was acquired for joint Army-Navy wartime training and  
29 bivouacs, forcing most residents to leave; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson created the  
32 Makua Military Reservation under a 65-year lease for the sum of  
33 \$1 and the valley has since been the Army's principal live-fire  
34 training site in Hawaii, and although live-fire training was  
35 halted in 2004 by Malama Makua's lawsuit, artillery pop-up  
36 targets and tire enclosures used for grenade practice remain in  
37 the valley under the premise of the Army's return; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, during Makua Valley's paniolo days, introduced  
40 cattle and wild pigs disrupted much of the area's native plant  
41 and animal life, but this pales in comparison to the impact that  
42 later military activities have caused, such as thousands of acres



1 burned by accidental fires, toxic soil, water contamination, and  
2 open burn and open detonation of military waste; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, when the Army agreed to do an environmental impact  
5 statement at Makua Valley in 2001 after intense pressure from  
6 local Hawaiian groups, it unearthed more than 100 ancient sites  
7 that are eligible for listing on the National Register of  
8 Historic Places; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Malama Makua, represented by Hawaii's only  
11 nonprofit environmental law firm, Earthjustice, filed suit in  
12 August 2009 to set aside the Army's environmental impact  
13 statement for proposed military training in Makua Valley until  
14 the Army completed key marine contamination studies and  
15 archaeological surveys; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the United States military was required to complete  
18 the environmental impact statement's studies by an October 2001  
19 settlement of Malama Makua's earlier lawsuit challenging the  
20 Army's failure to prepare an environmental impact statement for  
21 Makua Valley, as well as a related settlement in January 2007;  
22 now, therefore,  
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
26 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the United States  
27 Army is requested to complete the Makua Valley environmental  
28 impact statement, halt all activities within Makua Valley, and  
29 initiate an efficient and effective cleanup of the area so that  
30 Makua Valley may be returned to the families who lost their  
31 homelands generations ago; and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
35 United States, Commander of the United States Pacific Command,  
36 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Governor, President of  
37 Earthjustice, and Chairperson of the Waianae Coast Neighborhood  
38 Board.  
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OFFERED BY:

*Lyn Delant*

*[Handwritten signatures]*

