
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH
A MAKUA VALLEY TASK FORCE TO PREPARE FOR THE TRANSFER OF
MANAGEMENT OF THE MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION TO THE STATE
FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY UPON EXPIRATION OF LEASE NUMBER
S-3848.

1 WHEREAS, use of Makua Valley by the United States military
2 dates back to the 1920s; and

3
4 WHEREAS, during World War II, more than four thousand acres
5 in the Makua valley were converted into a United States military
6 reservation and areas of Makua valley were turned into live-fire
7 training facilities subject to ship-to-shore bombardment; and

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9 WHEREAS, kuleana residents and other residents were
10 required to leave Makua valley following the United States
11 military taking over the area; and

12
13 WHEREAS, in 1964, the Board of Land and Natural Resources
14 signed a sixty-five-year lease with the United States Army for
15 use of the Makua valley land; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the United States military continued live-fire
18 training at Makua Military Reservation until 2001, when the
19 United States Army agreed to nearly cease live-fire training at
20 Makua pending a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, according to the findings of fact by a United
24 States district court that temporarily enjoined the Army from
25 conducting live-fire military training at Makua in 2001:



- 1 (1) There are at least thirty-two listed endangered
2 plants, two endangered birds, one endangered mammal,
3 and one endangered invertebrate snail located in the
4 Makua Military Reservation area;
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- 6 (2) There are records of ten plant species recognized as
7 species of concern, five plant candidate species
8 recognized for threatened or endangered species
9 status, and one animal species of concern in the Makua
10 Military Reservation area; and
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- 12 (3) Makua valley is associated with a number of Native
13 Hawaiian legends and traditional Native Hawaiian
14 deities, and has significant religious and social
15 value to many Native Hawaiians; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Makua Military Reservation contains
18 approximately one hundred sites that are eligible for listing on
19 the National Register of Historic Places, including Hawaiian
20 temples, shrines, and petroglyphs; and
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22 WHEREAS, the United States Army agreed to clear unexploded
23 ordnances, with a focus on providing access to cultural sites in
24 Makua; and
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26 WHEREAS, access to cultural sites was halted in 2015 after
27 two grass-cutting contractors were injured when an unexploded
28 ordnance was accidentally exploded, resulting in a lawsuit
29 against the United States Army to renew access to cultural
30 sites; and
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32 WHEREAS, General Lease No. S-3848, the State's sixty-five-
33 year lease to the United States Army for its use of Makua
34 valley, expires on August 16, 2029; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
38 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Land and Natural
39 Resources is requested to form a task force, the members of
40 which are to serve without compensation, to examine and address
41 the legal, historical, environmental, and cultural impacts from
42 the decades-long use of Makua valley by the United States armed



1 forces, and prepare for the transition of the management of the
2 Makua Military Reservation from the United States Army to the
3 State upon expiration of General Lease NO. S-3848; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
6 be comprised of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
7 Resources and a representative of the Hawaii State Legislature
8 to be selected by the Speaker of the State House of
9 Representatives; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
12 Land and Natural Resources is requested invite the following
13 persons to be members of the task force:
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- 15 (1) A representative from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- 16
- 17 (2) A member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee;
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- 19 (3) A representative of the families who were evicted from
20 Makua valley or whose lands in Makua valley were
21 condemned by the federal government;
- 22
- 23 (4) One representative each from three different non-
24 profit organizations with expertise on Makua valley;
25 and
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- 27 (5) A representative selected from a list of organizations
28 compiled by Native Hawaiian organizations and
29 submitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
30 Natural Resources; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall elect a
33 chairperson from among themselves; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
36 enter into specific discussions with the United States Army
37 prior to the expiration of General Lease No. S-3848 to:
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- 39 (1) Facilitate the expedient return of the lands
40 comprising the Makua Military Reservation;



H.C.R. NO. 84

1 (2) Ensure the removal of unexploded ordnance in Makua
2 valley; and

3
4 (3) Ensure the expansion of opportunities for cultural
5 access; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
8 submit status updates of its findings and recommendations,
9 including any proposed legislation to the Legislature no later
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
11 legislative session until the task force is dissolved on
12 February 16, 2030, six months after the expiration of General
13 Lease No. S-3848; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
17 Secretary of the Army, Speaker of the State House of
18 Representatives, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
19 Resources, Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board
20 of Trustees, and Chairperson of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee.

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OFFERED BY:

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