
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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:
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- 27 (1) There are at least thirty-two listed endangered
28 plants, two endangered birds, one endangered mammal,



1 and one endangered invertebrate snail located in the
2 Makua Military Reservation area;

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4 (2) There are records of ten plant species recognized as
5 species of concern, five plant candidate species
6 recognized for threatened or endangered species
7 status, and one animal species of concern in the Makua
8 Military Reservation area; and

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10 (3) Makua valley is associated with a number of Native
11 Hawaiian legends and traditional Native Hawaiian
12 deities, and has significant religious and social
13 value to many Native Hawaiians; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Makua Military Reservation contains
16 approximately one hundred sites that are eligible for listing on
17 the National Register of Historic Places, including Hawaiian
18 temples, shrines, and petroglyphs; and

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20 WHEREAS, the United States Army agreed to clear unexploded
21 ordnances, with a focus on providing access to cultural sites in
22 Makua; and

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24 WHEREAS, access to cultural sites was halted in 2015 after
25 two grass-cutting contractors were injured when an unexploded
26 ordnance was accidentally exploded, resulting in a lawsuit
27 against the United States Army to renew access to cultural
28 sites; and

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30 WHEREAS, General Lease No. S-3848, the State's sixty-five-
31 year lease to the United States Army for its use of Makua
32 valley, expires on August 16, 2029; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
36 2019, that the Board of Land and Natural Resources is requested
37 to form a task force, the members of which are to serve without
38 compensation, to examine and address the legal, historical,
39 environmental, and cultural impacts from the decades-long use of
40 Makua valley by the United States armed forces, and prepare for
41 the transition of the management of the Makua Military



1 Reservation from the United States Army to the State upon
2 expiration of General Lease NO. S-3848; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
5 be comprised of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
6 Resources and a representative of the Hawaii State Legislature
7 to be selected by the Speaker of the State House of
8 Representatives; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
11 Land and Natural Resources is requested invite the following
12 persons to be members of the task force:

- 13 (1) A representative from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- 14 (2) A member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee;
- 15 (3) A representative of the families who were evicted from
16 Makua valley or whose lands in Makua valley were
17 condemned by the federal government;
- 18 (4) One representative each from three different non-
19 profit organizations with expertise on Makua valley;
20 and
- 21 (5) A representative selected from a list of organizations
22 compiled by Native Hawaiian organizations and
23 submitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
24 Natural Resources; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall elect a
32 chairperson from among themselves; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
35 enter into specific discussions with the United States Army
36 prior to the expiration of General Lease No. S-3848 to:

- 37 (1) Facilitate the expedient return of the lands
38 comprising the Makua Military Reservation;
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