
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 GENERAL
LEASE NO. 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 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 once the United States military
11 took 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 land in Makua Valley; 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

22
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;
5
- 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
11
- 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
21

22 WHEREAS, the United States Army agreed to clear unexploded
23 ordnance, with a focus on providing access to cultural sites in
24 Makua; and
25

26 WHEREAS, access to cultural sites was halted in 2015 after
27 two grass-cutting contractors were injured when an unexploded
28 ordnance accidentally exploded, resulting in a lawsuit against
29 the United States Army to renew access to cultural sites; and
30

31 WHEREAS, General Lease No. S-3848, the State's sixty-five-
32 year lease to the United States Army for its use of Makua
33 Valley, expires on August 16, 2029; now, therefore,
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
37 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Land and Natural
38 Resources is requested to establish a Makua Valley task force to
39 prepare for the transfer of management of the Makua Military
40 Reservation to the State from the United States Army upon
41 expiration of General Lease No. S-3848; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
 2 are requested to examine and address the legal, historical,
 3 environmental, and cultural impacts from the decades-long use of
 4 Makua Valley by the United States armed forces, and serve
 5 without compensation; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 8 be comprised of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 9 Resources and a representative of the House of Representatives
 10 to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 11 and

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

- 16
 17 (1) A representative from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
 18
 19 (2) A member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee;
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 21 (3) A representative of the families who were evicted from
 22 Makua Valley or whose lands in Makua Valley were
 23 condemned by the federal government;
 24
 25 (4) One representative from each of three different non-
 26 profit organizations with expertise regarding Makua
 27 Valley; and
 28
 29 (5) A representative selected from a list of organizations
 30 compiled by Native Hawaiian organizations and
 31 submitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
 32 Natural Resources; and

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 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 35 elect a chairperson from among its members; and

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



- 1 (1) Facilitate the expedient return of the lands
- 2 comprising the Makua Military Reservation;
- 3
- 4 (2) Ensure the removal of unexploded ordnance in Makua
- 5 Valley; and
- 6
- 7 (3) Ensure the expansion of opportunities for cultural
- 8 access; and
- 9

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
 19 Secretary of the Army, Chairperson of the Board of Land and
 20 Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
 21 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairperson of the Aha Moku
 22 Advisory Committee.
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OFFERED BY: *And Lt*

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