



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII
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CO
30 MAR 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023
COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS
Conference Room 430
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY TO VALIDATE THE MILITARY NECESSITY OF THE PU'UOLA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY (PRTF)

ENCLOSURE (1): MCBH FEEDBACK TO THE PROPOSED HOUSE RESOLUTION 104

Honorable Members of the Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans:

The Marine Corps has operated the Pu'uola Range Training Facility (PRTF) located in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, since the early 1900s. The range is a critical facility for the Marine Corps as it is the only place in Hawaii where your Marines can conduct their required known-distance marksmanship training – no other facility offers this necessary capability. Unlike other services, all Marines are required to conduct the Annual Rifle Qualification from up to 500 yards regardless of their job specialty, as every Marine must be an effective rifleman first and foremost.

Through over a century of operation, this facility has trained hundreds of thousands of Marines in critical rifle and pistol skills that enable Marines to respond to our nation's call. As you are aware, Marines are America's 911 force, and must remain capable to respond to a wide variety of potential crisis events in a matter of hours. One of the most basic skills a Marine must possess and continually hone is the ability to maintain marksmanship proficiency. As stated, PRTF is the only place in Hawaii that Marines can accomplish this irreplaceable training. Approximately 7,000 Hawaii-based Marines a year train at PRTF, in addition to other services and government agencies, to include local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.


We have worked in close partnership with our community and elected officials to mitigate potential impacts to the surrounding community, specifically those residing in close proximity to the range. We understand the concerns regarding loud noise associated with our training, and because of that, we have worked with the surrounding community by mitigating noise impacts, to include changing the direction of our loudspeakers which are required to safely conduct live fire training, notifying the community when there are necessary changes to the firing schedule, permanently changed the start time of daily training, and in many other instances. We have been, and remain committed, to continued close cooperation and coordination in order to mitigate impacts as much as possible while maintaining our ability to train Marines to standard at the PRTF.

We look forward to continued cooperation from our friends and neighbors in the Ewa Beach community, whom we have worked together with for decades, and to addressing concerns and resolving problems in a reasonable, responsible manner. We also look forward to sharing factual

information which will assist this committee in ensuring accuracy on the proposed House Resolution 104. Enclosed in this letter is feedback from myself and my staff regarding the content of HR104. Annotated in red below individual paragraphs are factual corrections, feedback, and clarifying points that I know you will take into consideration.

I would like to invite any and all members of Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans to Pu'uloa Range Training Facility on April 17, 2023 to see the facility, speak to Marines and staff, and gain a more in-depth understanding of the training facility's importance to your Marine Corps.

My Point of Contact for this matter is 1stLt Mark McDonough at mark.mcdonough@usmc.mil or 808-257-1397.



S. C. KOUMPARAKIS
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Office

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. ¹⁰⁴

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE RELOCATION OF ALL LIVE FIRE TRAINING AND AVIATION
ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM THE PU'ULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

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WHEREAS, the area now known as the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility was transferred from the United States Army to the United States Navy between 1915 and 1916 and developed into a small-arms range; and

WHEREAS, the range supported long-range sniper training for a short period of time during the Vietnam War era until 1979, when the training was moved to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, now known as Marine Corps Base Hawaii; and

Sniper training was supported at Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) between 1979 and 2011. However, this training did not meet the minimum requirements stipulated by the Marine Corps to properly train snipers. A 1000 yard "known distance" range was necessary and properly made available at PRTF in 2011. This range at PRTF is the only 1000 yard "known distance" range in Hawaii and allows the Marine Corps and other branches of the military to meet necessary training requirements.

WHEREAS, in the thirty-two years following the departure of the sniper range, Iroquois Point, now known as Kapilina, and 'Ewa Beach were connected by an access road mauka of the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility which allowed TheBus of the City and County of Honolulu to service Iroquois Point; and

The on-base access road mauka of the training ranges was open to use by TheBus until military housing at Iroquois Point was privatized in 2003. Residency at Iroquois Point shifted from military only to both military and civilian tenants. In conjunction with this privatization, the use of an on-base road was no longer appropriate due to common military installation security practices.

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii doubled the length of the Alpha Range in the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility, which is closest to the 'Ewa Beach community, thereby re-establishing the sniper range without public participation or conducting an environmental assessment despite the addition of the United States Marine Corps' loudest small-arms rifle shooting from a significantly different location which altered surface danger zones and noise contours; and

In accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), MCBH conducted a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) thereby fulfilling all NEPA requirements. The vast majority of weapons fired at the 1000 yard firing position are rifles equipped with suppressors (also commonly known as "silencers") and do not produce an increase in noise when compared to other weapons training at PRTF.

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WHEREAS, the closure of the access road due to the expansion of the Alpha Range resulted in the isolation of the communities of Iroquois Point and 'Ewa Beach from each other, termination of TheBus services to Iroquois Point, and elimination of a potential tsunami evacuation route; and

The privatization of Iroquois Point housing does not eliminate the on-base access road as a potential tsunami evacuation route. When necessary, MCBH would allow the use of the on-base access road to assist in evacuations.

WHEREAS, in recent years, Pu'uloa Range Training Facility personnel have routinely operated a powerful public address system well before 7:00 a.m. in violation of the Clean Air Act, which has resulted in hundreds of noise complaints from the surrounding community without relief; and

After careful and extensive review, MCBH Environmental Compliance and Protection personnel do not believe that PRTF violates the Clean Air Act.

WHEREAS, incessant noise pollution from the simultaneous firing of weapons by dozens of shooters commences promptly at 7:00 a.m., and persists throughout the day, and sometimes into the night; and

Training begins at 7:00 a.m. in order to ensure that it can conclude at a reasonable hour each day. MCBH does this to help limit impacts to the community. Other ranges in the Marine Corps begin firing as soon as daylight allows. Night live fire training is much less common but a necessary skillset required for Marines to operate in any conditions.

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii recently announced that the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility would be used as a helicopter night landing zone, significantly increasing existing noise pollution outside of normal range hours; and

PRTF in its current form has always been able to act as a landing zone for aircraft. However, this does not occur regularly and only out of necessity to support training. The announcement referenced was a Jan. 9, 2023 Public Advisory published by MCBH as a courtesy notification to neighboring residents of a rare instance of aircraft activity lasting only a short period to support required training. PRTF can also be used as an emergency evacuation point for first responder aircraft.

WHEREAS, Harvard Medical School researchers have shown that persistent noise pollution such as that experienced by the residents surrounding the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility not only drives hearing loss, tinnitus, and hypersensitivity to sound, but

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can cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease; type 2 diabetes; sleep disturbances; stress; mental health and cognition problems, including memory impairment and attention deficits; childhood learning delays; and low birth weight or miscarriage; and

The study referenced is unrelated to PRTF and the type of noise characteristics produced by training operations conducted there. We acknowledge loud noise is unwanted, and continually cooperate with our friends and neighbors to mitigate noise impacts.

WHEREAS, scientists are investigating other effects of noise pollution including possible links to dementia; and

WHEREAS, since the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility is an open-air range, there is a potential for stray bullet impact to nearby schools, churches, homes, parks, and low or slow flying passenger aircraft—all of which are within the firing distance of weapons typically fired at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility—via ricochet, accidental weapons discharge, or the intentional directing of weapons fire off-range; and

The safety measures, training limitations, and infrastructure implemented at PRTF thoroughly ensure the safety of not only those training at the facility but especially that of the community and surrounding residential areas. Range safety measures are comprehensive and detailed in nature; MCBH subject matter experts can be made available if more information is necessary. There have been no instances of injury or harm to off-base community members identified by PRTF staff or reported by the community to MCBH.

WHEREAS, false alarm school lockdowns have even occurred in the 'Ewa Beach area due to range gunfire being mistaken as an active shooter situation; and

No false alarm school lockdowns caused by training at the range facility have ever been reported to MCBH or PRTF staff by community members or law enforcement.

WHEREAS, in April 2021, the Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics of the United States Marine Corps specifically directed the Marine Corps Base Hawaii to perform a range compatible use zone study via Marine Corps Order 3550.13; however, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii refused to release the study results after it was properly requested by 'Ewa Beach residents via a Freedom of Information Act request in 2022; and

As required by Marine Corps Order 3550.13, MCBH is in the process of ensuring compliance and conducting the required compatible use zone study. As this became a requirement in April 2021, accomplishing the conditions outline in the

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order will take time to accomplish. Unfortunately, no funding was associated with this order, although MCBH continues to seek funding for this and other mitigation of potential impact to the community. We greatly appreciate the legislature's assistance with securing funding for MCBH priorities in the past as well as for PRTF in the future.

WHEREAS, significant lead contamination of over seventy times the legal limit and a high risk of off-range migration of munitions constituents to nearshore waters and adjacent homes and the Pu'uloa Beach Park have been identified at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility, and the proposed remedy of moving only the short distance pistol ranges forty meters landward does not adequately address the long term threat of lead poisoning, especially given that the Marine Corps Base Hawaii has no intention to retreat the significantly larger Alpha and Bravo Ranges that are within two hundred thirty feet of homes and four hundred feet from Pu'uloa Beach Park where thousands of children play each month; and

Marine Corps Base Hawaii remains committed to protecting the environment and neighboring communities surrounding PRTF. The presence of lead in the impact berms at PRTF is not surprising or, in itself, any cause for concern. Lead from munitions constituents are inherent to firing range impact berms. There are no test results indicating at this time that lead is leaving the boundaries of PRTF. MCBH's primary concern at PRTF is the impacts of shoreline erosion along PRTF, which may potentially be the causation of lead migration from the range in the future. However, MCBH has developed a plan in close cooperation with Hawaii Department of Health that will effectively mitigate the impacts of shoreline erosion on the firing range berms at PRTF and ensure that munitions constituents remain within the training ranges. In February of this year, MCBH began moving Foxtrot range 40 meters inland from the shoreline because of its proximity to areas that are experiencing signs of erosion. Future actions will move an additional three ranges inland and adjacent to the new Foxtrot Range location. These actions were taken in concurrence with the Hawaii Department of Health and are adequate to effectively mitigate the effects of erosion and ensure munitions constituents do not migrate from within the PRTF.

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands recently announced the planned construction of approximately six hundred homes on the eighty-five acre parcel, formerly the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, directly adjacent to the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility; and

WHEREAS, the native Hawaiian families who will reside in these homes have little choice in where they will acquire shelter through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the pollution

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and other imminent hazards produced by the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility will significantly impact their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, impact berms at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility are within tens of feet of the high-water mark and, in some cases, interacting with wave activity, causing the off-range migration of munitions constituents; and

As stated above, areas of Pu'uloa Range Training Facility that have been identified as potential areas of future erosion are being moved a sufficient distance inland in close cooperation with Hawaii Department of Health.

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii's preferred alternative for erosion mitigation at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility includes hardening the shoreline with a one thousand five hundred foot corrugated steel sheet pile bulkhead which is inconsistent with Hawaii Coastal Zone Management law; and

In MCBH's 2019 Shoreline Stabilization EA, the preferred alternative for erosion mitigation at PRTF was to utilize sheet metal piles in some areas along the facility. This mitigation measure was determined to be a *de minimis* action under the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management law by the Coastal Zone Management Office. Following feedback from community members and elected officials, MCBH committed to cease pursuing the use of sheet metal piles, and continues to pursue other mitigation, to include vegetation and nature based solutions.

WHEREAS, thousands of shooters annually must commute from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe to and from the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility, which significantly adds to vehicle pollution, traffic congestion, and carbon output; and

PRTF is one of a few areas on Oahu owned and operated by the Marine Corps. This location would be used for other purposes if live firearms training was to cease aboard the facility. As a long term part of the Ewa community, MCBH will inherently continue to contribute the levels of vehicle traffic.

WHEREAS, the State is constructing a First-Responder Campus in Mililani, featuring a one hundred thousand square foot indoor shooting range which will significantly reduce the demand by non-United States Department of Defense users of the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of Camp Blaz in Guam, the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility's sniper distance range will no longer be the only range of its kind in the Pacific; and

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Guam is located over 4,000 miles from the islands of Hawaii, and movement of Marines to Guam for marksmanship training is simply not feasible from a cost and logistics perspective. Regardless of whether sniper training with suppressed sniper rifles takes place in Hawaii, PRTF is the only location in the state that the approximately 7,000 active duty Hawaii-based Marines can complete their required Annual Rifle Qualification.

WHEREAS, the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility sniper range has previously been relocated to the more appropriate Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe and could be relocated again; and

The necessary 1,000 yard "known distance" range sniper training has never taken place at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe and would be unattainable at the available training ranges located on the Mokapu Peninsula.

WHEREAS, live fire training at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility is incompatible with the 'Ewa Beach community given its close proximity to residences, schools, churches, public parks, and low flying passenger aircraft flight paths; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that all live fire training and aviation activities are requested to be relocated away from the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific, Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and members of the Honolulu City Council.

In order to ensure resolutions concerning Marine Corps Base Hawaii are received by the appropriate military commands and higher headquarters, it is recommended that to the distribution list include the following: Commandant of the Marine Corps; Commander, INDO-PACIFIC Command; Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific; Commanding General, Marine Installations Pacific; Commander, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, State Legislature of Hawai'i, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director of the Hawaii Department of Health, Mayor and members of the Honolulu City Council.

LATE

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:23:08 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Richard Gaos	Ewa Neighborhood Board #23	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

Please receive a cordial greeting on behalf of myself and the Ewa Beach Community. As a current member of the Ewa Neighborhood Board #23 (ENB#23), and having served in this role (and as co-Chair) for several years, I am compelled to share my staunch support for House Resolution 104 and relocation of all live fire training and aviation activities from the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF). During my time on the ENB#23, I have received more complaints and grievances from my constituents about the operation of the PRTF than any other issue in our community, bar none. I am literally bombarded with complaints on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

There are a multitude of harmful and negative impacts to the communities stemming from the range, the synergistic nature of which have led to the introduction of HR104 and overwhelming community backing for relocation of the range. As my constituents have made clear to me, the range simply is not compatible with surrounding communities. Issues include noise pollution, safety threats (e.g., stray bullets, loss of a primary Tsunami evacuation route), limits to recreational areas (e.g., waters fronting the range), and potentially life-threatening lead contamination, all of which impact schools and residents, including keiki, kupuna, military veterans (many suffering from PTSD), and the public in general. The planned addition of approximately 600 DHHL homes adjacent to the range in the near future will only add to the ongoing detriments and threats posed by the range.

As a representative for my community I am compelled to share their opposition to the ongoing function of the range in its current location. I look forward to providing verbal testimony in person as well.

Kind regards,

Alexander R. Gaos, PhD

Member

Ewa Neighborhood Board #23

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:09:18 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Chinn	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am an Ewa Beach resident and live near Pu'uloa shooting range. Pu'uloa range is located in the middle of a densely populated neighborhood, in close proximity to schools, homes, and parks. The range poses numerous health and safety threats to Ewa residents, and the Navy should immediately relocate the range to a non-residential area of the island.

Similar to the calls to shut down Red Hill, HR104 represents the culmination of many years of significant concerns from residents coming to a breaking point.. This includes public health, safety, noise, and environmental concerns, including proposed destructive shoreline hardening, toxic levels of lead contamination in the soil within a few hundred feet of the beach park where hundreds of keiki play each week, potential off-range bullet migration, loud weapons firing, and a powerful PA system often operated in pre-dawn hours in violation of local laws. The proposed DHHL construction of approximately 600 homes for Native Hawaiians immediately adjacent to the range is also an imminent threat to mental and physical health.

No community should be subjected to the harmful chemical and noise pollution, and numerous other safety hazards produced by a military shooting range. Would the range be allowed in the middle of Manoa or Lanikai? Obviously not, and Ewa residents should be given the same priority for safety and health as every other community on the island! My family members served in the military and I support readiness. However, as the resolution points out, the military has ample land and options on Oahu and across the region to relocate the range to an area that does not threaten residents and the shoreline. Please pass HR104 and prioritize the health and safety of Ewa residents.

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:11:53 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radhika Jit	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am an Ewa Beach resident and live near Pu'uloa shooting range. Pu'uloa range is located in the middle of my densely populated neighborhood, very close to schools, homes, and parks. I'm testifying that the Navy immediately move the firing range to a non-residential location and mitigate the toxicity that poses a threat to the public, lands, waters of the Pu'uloa shoreline in Ewa Beach.

Being awakened to a loudspeaker at 6am and loud shooting all day has been detrimental to my health, including when I was pregnant last year. Our community has reached a breaking point. Our community is deeply concerned with public health, safety, noise, and environmental concerns, including proposed destructive shoreline hardening, toxic levels of lead contamination in the soil within a few hundred feet of the beach park where hundreds of keiki play each week, potential off-range bullet migration, loud weapons firing, and a powerful PA system often operated at 6am in violation of local laws.

No community should be subjected to the harmful chemical and noise pollution, and numerous other safety hazards produced by a military shooting range. Would the range be allowed in the middle of Manoa or Lanikai? Obviously not, and Ewa residents should be given the same priority for safety and health as every other community on the island!

I support military readiness. However, the military controls 25% of the land on Oahu and has many options across the region as well to relocate the range to an area that does not threaten residents and the shoreline. Please pass HR104 and prioritize the health and safety of Ewa residents.

LATE

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 8:37:27 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Plowman	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I strongly support HR104 as the PRTF has shown itself to be completely incompatible with the surrounding community and air traffic associated with Daniel K Inouye International Airport.

PRTF could never be constructed in its current location given modern standards.

Respectfully,

Michael Plowman

Ewa Beach

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:44:47 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandy Ward	Hui o Ho`ohonua	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans,

I am writing in support of HB 104 and urge you all to pass this bill so vital to the health and safety of those, like myself, who live in the `Ewa moku. I am the Executive Director of a community non-profit that, along with almost 10,000 community volunteers, works to restore `Ewa-Pu`uloa to its historic abundance. In the shadow of the Red Hill Water Contamination Crisis we have also learned of the dangerous levels of lead toxicity stemming from the Pu`uloa Firing Range.

Although disheartening to be working on restoration while confirmed sources of pollution, like that created by the Pu`uloa Firing Range, threaten the water and food security of the entire island, I believe that our state legislators will support solutions that address threats to public safety and well-being. HB104 requires the DoD to take reasonable actions that include moving the Pu`uloa Firing Range away from a heavily used public shoreline and mitigating the heavy metal toxicity created by the facility.

As I work with hundreds of students every week on restoration along the Pu`uloa shoreline, I want to be able to tell them that you supported HB104 and are upholding our state constitution Article XI which includes the kuleana to protect our waters for present and future generations - and that you hold the DoD accountable to do the same. I hope that the DoD, will also support the move and toxicity mitigation of the Pu`uloa Firing Range proposed by HB104.

Mahalo for your consideration.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS

March 31, 2023

11:00 AM

Conference Room 430

In **SUPPORT** of **HR104**: Requesting the Relocation of All Live Fire and Aviation Activities away from the Pu'uloa Training Facility

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HR104, which would urge Department of Defense and other decisionmakers to halt the continued and increased degradation of natural and cultural resources from live fire and aviation activities at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility ("PRTF").

As we wrestle with ever more revelations of land and water contamination across the islands, and as we face an ever-growing planetary crisis threatening to upend our very ways of life, we must do what it takes to prevent any further harm to the very environment and social fabric that we, our children, and future generations will need to continue calling Hawai'i home.

The Sierra Club understands that high levels of lead contamination from live fire training has already been found in the region surrounding the PRTF, and that planned future activities at the site – including shoreline hardening for erosion control as well as increased aviation activities, with the attendant potential for fuel releases or fires – could also significantly impact adjacent cultural sites and nearshore resources relied upon for cultural and subsistence practices.

Accordingly, in order to prevent the continued and increased destruction of critical natural and cultural resources in Pu'uloa, a reconsideration of any plan to continue live fire training and conduct new aviation activities at the PRTF would be both timely and critical.

The Sierra Club does respectfully ask that the Committee further urge all relevant decisionmakers to ensure that other communities and natural and cultural resources in other areas are also protected from similar impacts, in any proposed relocation of live fire and aviation activities from the PRTF – particularly in regions that have been disproportionately burdened by historical and ongoing environmental injustices.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HR104. Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

LATE

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 6:20:28 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Hawaii Firearms Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition is opposed to the attempted shutdown and relocation of Puuloa Range and Training Facility, which is the only 600/1000 yard known distance range in the state of it's size.

Oahu has limited space for shooting ranges which can also be costly and present environmental and sound issues. Shutting ranges down due to public residential developments encroaching on ranges is a common problem everywhere. Shooting ranges must be protected or else they will all be shutdown for one reason or another and there will be no place to practice with firearms anymore.

I used the Puuloa range for weapons qualifications and team practice in the Army, and also as a civilian with the Puuloa Rifle and Pistol Club. With so many servicemembers on the island, range access is very limited which causes some servicemembers can go years without proper annual weapons training which affects military readiness. Military members also seek additional training above what the military gives to servicemembers by joining recreational shooting clubs like PRPC to practice on their own. The range also hosts civilians for practice through the PRPC.

Relocating the range to other parts of Oahu will be problematic as there will be environmental and sound issues and not in my backyard mentality. The same public residential encroachment will also eventually turn up for any future location. As an example, Hawaii County has been trying to build a range for two decades. Despite all the land there, they cannot find a suitable place to build a much smaller range. Relocating the range will also just lead to lead contamination at another site.

The Marine Corps has made progress in increasing safety and environmental hazards at Puuloa over the decades. We hope that the Marine Corps is able to work with the community to address some of the problems presented to keep the range in place.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition
(808) 255-3066

LATE

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 9:19:36 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Yuen	Pu'uloa Rifle and Pistol Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility has been at it's current location since 1917. It is currently the only facility that Marines can do their annual rifle qualification presently. The military ranges at Schofield and Kaneohe cannot support this type of training. The municipal ranges at Koko Head and Waipahu cannot supprt this type of training. It would cost millions in taxpayer money to transport the 9000 Marines to an off island facility to conduct this annual requirement.

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:43:56 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:50:44 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie K Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support of the closing and relocation of the Pu'uloa Rifle Range. My primary concerns are the noise pollution, environmental abuses of the land and sea, and safety of the residents in the community.

Noise pollution is caused by the live firing of weapons, the booming loudspeaker, soliders that congrugate as early as 0545 talking and yelling on Fort Weaver Road to conduct physical training, and the random shots that cause anxiety to our family and especially our dog that constantly shakes when he is outside.

The environmental hazards include the lead found in the soil that exceeded the state safety standard by 17 times for an industrial area according to testing conducted by the Hawai'i Analytical Laboratory of samples collected by the Surfrider Foundation. Over time, this contaminaion will also affect the ocean and marine ecosystem.

[\(https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/10/lead-detected-near-militarys-ewa-beach-shooting-range-surfrider-says/\)](https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/10/lead-detected-near-militarys-ewa-beach-shooting-range-surfrider-says/)

According the EPA Superfund Site Information website, The Pu'uloa Rifle Range is not on the National Priorities List. However, it does state that a Federal Facility Preliminary Assessment Review "is needed". A Preliminary Assessment was completed by another agency, therefore, due diligence must be conducted to determine if the site possess a threat to human health and the environment. Under the current circumstances of extreme health risks to the residents of Hawai'i (e.g. Kapūkakāi, Pōhakuloa Haleakalā), the military needs to be held accountable for their dereliction of being good stewards of the environment.

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/CurSites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0905612>)

The safety of the local community is a priority especially with the personnel who speed up and down Fort Weaver Road when entering and departing the range.

As native Hawaiians and residents, we are prohibited from gathering mea kai (ocean things) due to the restricted area on the beach and out in the ocean. Auwē, that is another negative for sustainable, safe, and healthy living, not to mention the Marine Corp does not do any shoreline cleaning or ocean pollution mitigation!

I respectfully request for support for this grassroots effort. Your comittment to hearing our concerns is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo nui loa!

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:12:01 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Rios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Camille Rios. I have lived next to the Pu'uloa firing range for 16 years. I am a mother of 3. This outdated range continues to detrimental to the community and worsens as the years go by.

Several schools nearby regularly have to drown out the noise of gunshots coming from this range.

Given the current proliferation of gun violence across the country, it's unsafe to have active shooters so close to the school. These children already practice active shooter drills in school. The gunfire only serves to traumatize them further.

The sea rider foundation has found outrageously high lead levels near the firing range. Reports show that lead contamination is 17 times higher than the state safety standard. This community actively uses the beach, shoreline, and ocean to fish, swim and play. The firing range is literally poisonous.

The community around the range has changed significantly since 1934. It's time to move it. There is no reason to have this range in the middle of a residential community.

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:37:32 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Roe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Christine Roe and I am a military veteran that deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq. I live with my family in the neighborhood surrounding Pu'uloa Range. I grew up as a military brat and have spent countless hours living, working, and playing on various bases. I can not in good conscience support Pu'uloa Range staying open in any capacity as a firing range.

When you look at the federal government's guidance for building and designing firing ranges, the first consideration is remoteness. I am sure when the military built the range in the early 1900's it was remote as there was no housing in the area. Now the range can hardly be called remote, as it is sandwiched between a park and an elementary school, and surrounded by housing that is continuing to expand.

If I thought that closing Pu'uloa Range would affect the military's readiness in any real way, I would not support it. I find it disingenuous and borderline insulting, when the Marine Corps uses readiness as the reason to keep the range open. I understand the importance of marines qualifying in basic rifle marksmanship in order to be able to fight and win our nations wars. Continuing to insist that Pu'uloa is the only place that marines can qualify despite the noise, lead and environmental pollution is not fair to the people in the community.

The military faces the same challenge that we all face in Hawaii - land is scarce and construction is expensive. By their own regulations the military would not build Pu'uloa Range where it is now. The military has plenty of land on bases where they could locate the range and the cost would be one small line item in their large budget.

The USMC core values are honor, courage and commitment. The right and honorable thing in this situation is to be a good neighbor and relocate the range as it no longer a suitable location.

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:07:41 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is there Job your Screwing with!!!!!!!!!!

LATE

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:45:58 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Honorable Takashi Ohno and Committee Members

FM: Karen Luke, Resident, Ewa Beach Road

Dear Representative Ohno,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my concerns on the Pu'uloa Rifle Range. I live a mile away from the range and the overly loud PA system has caused me such distress over the years that it contributes to my high blood pressure. I've approached the Ewa Beach Neighborhood Board many times over the years for help, but now that there was an accidental active shooter alarm at the school because someone mistook the firing for an incident at the school, there is even more urgency to move the range out of our residential area.

Your positive vote on this resolution would be most appreciated.

Mahalo,

Karen Luke

Ewa Beach Road

LATE

3/25/23

Aloha!

My name is John Paul Jones. I have lived on the island of Oahu since the late 80's when I came here as a service member. I was fortunate enough to meet my wife and raise our children here. I chose to remain on the island because of the natural beauty, the people and culture.

I have been a resident of Ewa Beach since 1998 and as stated previously raised my family here on the beautiful south shore. My residence is within a 1/8 mile of the Pu'uloa range which I am quite familiar with as I have used the range several times over the years due to my military commitment both as an active US Army member and as a proud member of the Hawai'i Army National Guard.

While I do understand the need (first hand) for training and readiness when it comes to the defense of our nation, I feel that the range has definitely outlived its usefulness. Over the years I have been awoken by the sound of the warning system (automated voice warning boaters, beach users and fishermen; about the live fire impact area) as well as the testing of the audio system. Small arm and larger caliber weapons ring out throughout the day and sometimes even in the evening time with little to no warning.

I appreciate the fact that this issue is and has continued to be addressed and hope that this will be the time when the military, especially in light of the "Red Hill" water contamination disaster, that the Department of Defense will heed the "writing on the wall" and shut down the Pu'uloa range for good. Several studies have concluded that there is and will continue to be elevated levels of lead as well as continued erosion of the beach. These issues alone warrant the immediate shut down and or re-location away from such a heavily populated area.

I look forward to the day when the DOD make the announcement that they indeed want to be good neighbors and stewards of the community and come up with a resolution to end the continued nightmare of small arms fire, possible accidental ricochet of bullets, health related issues (elevated lead levels in and around the community) and lastly, effects on property values.

Dailey, to include the weekends, the range is operating less than 100 yards from homes, beaches and even a playground often filled with children. The audio system blaring/barking commands to the service personnel and just overall undesired noise needs to stop!

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

John Paul Jones

Ewa Beach, 96706

LATE

HR-104

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 5:04:40 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/31/2023 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

lead in ocean is from FISHING WEIGHTS

STRONGLY OPPOSE