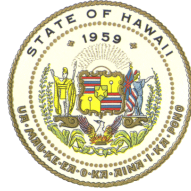
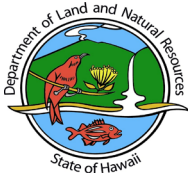


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
CORRECTONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
10:30 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

In consideration of  
HOUSE RESOLUTION 182  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONDUCT PUBLIC FORUMS TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY  
REGARDING THE LEASE OF STATE LANDS TO THE MILITARY.

House Resolution 182 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct public forums to solicit input from the community regarding the lease of State lands to the military. **The Department respectfully opposes this measure because the leasing, permitting and environmental review processes already have statutorily required public input and comment procedures.**

Through the Department, the State leases lands to the military, including the Army, Air Force, and Navy, on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, and Hawaii. The Department notes that the Navy's fuel storage tanks at Red Hill on Oahu are not on State leased lands. Some of the State lessees have expressed interest in retaining use of the lands after 2029 and may apply for new long-term leases. Any decision to issue a new lease to a branch of the military would be made by the Board of Land and Natural Resources at a public, sunshine meeting at which anyone attending would have an opportunity testify. Additionally, the public will have opportunities to comment during the comment periods for the Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement which would be required for any new lease and Conservation District Use Applications where applicable. Accordingly, there is already a mechanism in place for public input in the decision-making process and the Department believes that any additional public forums would be duplicative of the existing process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



**Testimony to the House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:30 A.M.**

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 430  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**RE: HR 182, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
TO CONDUCT PUBLIC FORUMS TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING  
THE LEASE OF STATE LANDS TO THE MILITARY – IN OPPOSITION**

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

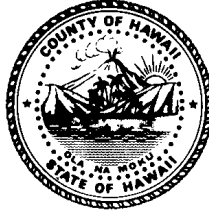
The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

While we appreciate the intent of HR 182, the MAC respectfully opposes this resolution.

The MAC underscores the importance of existing and ongoing efforts to collaborate and engage with Hawaii's communities. The military employs over 100,000 people in Hawaii and the MAC recognizes and appreciates the importance of our commitment to Hawaii's communities, state officials, and state agencies on a path forward. Whether efforts are in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, regulatory or permitting reviews, and neighborhood board meetings, we are committed to Hawaii and believe this resolution is unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Holeka Goro Inaba**  
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280  
Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 23, 2022

### COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Re: **Support** for HR182, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT PUBLIC FORUMS TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE LEASE OF STATE LANDS TO THE MILITARY.  
Videoconference Hearing: March 23, 2022 at 1:50 p.m.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the above referenced Committee,

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I would like to express support for the above referenced resolution, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

We support this resolution that would request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct public forums in communities adjacent to large parcels of state lands that are currently leased to the military and have leases that are scheduled for renewal or expiration within the next ten years. We also support that the chairperson of the Board of invite representatives from the military and other members of the Department of Defense, area legislators, and adjacent landowners to attend those public forums.

It is important that the positive and negative impacts the military leases may have on the surrounding communities be known and that a report of these impacts be provided to Legislature.

I strongly urge the passing of HR182.

Sincerely,

---

HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member  
District 8, North Kona

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:08:32 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stasey Butler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support all Kanaka and community involvement on any and all issues regarding land and military.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:25:26 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily Holmberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Decision making with regard to land use belongs to the people of Hawai'i, more specifically to Native Hawaiians, not to the military.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:28:07 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

Public input and discussion is important. This shouldn't need to be a resolution, it should be every day practice. The DLNR and others need more public accountability.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:33:44 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonah Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans,

My name is Jonah Bobilin and I am a constituent from Pearl City. I am writing in strong support of this measure, particularly in light of the recent Kapūkakī (Red Hill) jet fuel spill as well as in response to the US military's history of environmental violence and degradation of land in Oceania.

As 65-year military leases are set to expire soon, and due to the military's poor management of currently leased land, I believe it is essential that the community be provided an avenue for input on any future leases of land by the US military in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Jonah Bobilin

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:00:21 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Red Hill. Pu'uloa/Pearl Harbor. Kaho'olawe. Waikāne. Mākua. Pōhakuloa. These place names are sites of environmental destruction and contamination. They are the evidence and a reminder that the U.S. military is one of the greatest threats to our land, waters, and community. The leases of over 30,000 acres of Hawaiian trust land to the U.S. military for 65 years for a mere \$1.00 makes a mockery of the public trust doctrine that should govern these lands.

The case Clarence Ching and Mary Maxine Kahaulelio vs. Suzanne Case (Civil No. 14-1-1085-04) found that "The trustee of the public lands trust has the highest duty to preserve and maintain the trust lands. This duty is broadly coined in the concept of "malama 'aina"—to care for the land." Further, the court found that the State had breached its trust duties with regard to Hawaiian trust land leased to the Army at Pōhakuloa. The Hawai'i Supreme Court affirmed this finding.

Besides the four leases to the U.S. Army at Pōhakuloa, Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku, for which environmental impact statements are being prepared, there are numerous sites on Maui, Kaua'i, and O'ahu leased to the U.S. Air Force, and tens of thousands of acres of land and submerged land leased to the Navy on Kaua'i. These leases have not been made widely available to the public. Nor has any information been disclosed about the military activities and impacts on those public trust lands.

I urge you to pass this resolution to call on DLNR to provide public forums regarding the Hawaiian trust lands leased to the U.S. military. Thank you.



**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:30:07 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Curran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and the CMV committee,

My name is Lee Curran and I am testifying as an individual who is a co-facilitator of the Transformative Justice Task Force which is part of Faith Action for Community Equity, (FACE). I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR182.

As a white settler on Kanaka Maoli land in Makaha, I am unequivocally in support of DLNR conducting public forums to solícite public input regarding the lease of state lands to the military. This request of DLNR **is the very least of what the State should be doing, short of cancelling all leases.**

As I write this, I am recognizing and grieving over it being World Water Day and the devastating impacts of the U.S. military to our water here on Oahu. These impacts of the Red Hill storage tanks and the military training grounds out here in Makua Valley are an abomination to the land and the people.

This House Resolution is a starting place as we shift towards returning the aina and its stewardship to Kanaka Maoli. Please pass HR182 as we make the long overdue move to **#LANDBACK.**

Lee Curran,

Makaha, HI

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:55:52 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
shantee brown	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

please support HR182. HR182 would give your constituents a space to have their voices heard in an agency that typically does not adhere to community input. it is especially important for civilian voices to be heard on this topic. at no time in hawaiian history has the general population ever had their voices heard regarding militarization in hawai'i. i would like to share with DLNR my experience of growing up under pōhakuloa training base and current concerns.

1. the public health concerns i have regarding aerosolization of depleted uranium(DU) during trainings. no studies are being conducted to find out which populations on island are most exposed to radiation from DU and how to mitigate that exposure for the remainder of their lives.
2. the environmental degradation of our mauna, waters, and air.
3. the psychological impact of living near the base. as a child, i thought earthquakes happened at night because my bed would shake from the bombings. when i was a teenager i saw that the trainings at pōhakuloa were directly connected to the illegal wars in afghanistan and iraq. knowing that people were training to kill innocent civilians in my backyard caused a lot of grief. in the following years, every convoy i watched come up from kawaihae harbor to pōhakuloa training base brought back feelings of grief and anxiety over the knowledge that civilians would be dying in future attacks. civilians deaths are the majority of casualties in war.

mahalo for your support.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:13:43 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mara Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the red hill crisis proves that military presence on Hawaii has caused harm to the people and land of Hawai'i. The military does not have right to use land for military practice and shooting. No more land for military.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:52:17 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Autumn Goerts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support requesting the DLNR to hold public forums to solicit input from the community regarding the lease of lands to the military.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:54:12 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HR182 as an initial step toward returning Hawai‘i lands to its people. HR182 would simply request that community input be sought regarding the leasing of state lands to the military.

In 1998, the US military controlled about 5% of land in Hawai‘i—21% of O‘ahu’s land (where I live). The amount of land ‘owned’ by the military today is still high and Hawai‘i has a very noticeable military presence. The recent water crisis at Kapūkakāī (Red Hill) reminds us that the US military is not a good steward of the environment and cannot be trusted to prioritize natural resources which our islands and people depend on.

The community that calls Hawai‘i home deserves to have a say in what happens on this ‘āina.

Please pass HR182.

Mahalo,

Kristen Young  
Honolulu resident

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:55:06 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to dear members of legislation,

I urge you to pass HR182, which will be able to have the community be able to provide their input on the military leases of Hawaiian lands. This bill is where the voices of Kānaka Maoli/Native Hawaiians to be heard for once on why they want their land to be demilitarized/deoccupied of the military. It makes no sense that the military gets to lease Indigenous land/land that belongs to Hawaiians for just \$1 as if Hawaiians have ever approved of this. When Hawaiians and their supporters speak/testify on emphasizing why they question and condemn military presence Hawai'i are to be heard and supported. Give Hawaiian land back to Hawaiian hands now! Hold accountable the military! Pass HR182!

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:06:53 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joe kassel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives:

i support HR182 and wish that it was a bill that could pass instead of a resolution. I understand, we do what we can. Finally, it has taken the pollution of drinking water to draw attention to the degradation of our land and water by the U.S. military. The military is infamous for environmental destruction, sweeping it under the rug and denying that it even happens until it becomes undeniable. Red Hill is not an isolated incident, it is the norm. Concerns over Red Hill have been raised for a very long time and nothing was done. Concerns about Depleted Uranium munitions discharge at Pohakuloa were also denied, then a little bit was admitted to, finally thousands of rounds. Whats the truth, where are they and how adequate is the monitoring. the tons of lead discharged at Pohakuloa get it a seat as one of Hawaii's top polluters. So please opening discussion is the very least we can do, i hope that we can do better , for the sake of our mo'opuna.

with aloha

Dr. Joe Kassel N.D.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:13:29 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steven Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The mismanagement of our land and natural resources needs to stop and be returned to the indigenous people whose very culture IS maintaining the sustainability of the land and natural resources .



**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:32:04 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mai Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian and military spouse, I support our right to ask questions of what is being done to our lands.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:38:00 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly High	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HR182. The terms of lease agreements with the US military have been poorly managed and are inconsistent with the well-being of Hawai'i, both land and people. That has never been more obvious than now, with the poisoning of critical aquifers, followed by the deceit, the drawn-out legal battles, and insistence of the US Navy to poison our water. They are unsatisfactory tenants, and renewal of their leases ought to be challenged.

This resolution is a (small) step in the right direction. Please pass HR182.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:12:24 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

‘AE, this is the kind of action that needs to be taken. PONO!

Now, ensure that this is honest and sincere and that the VOICES OF THE PEOPLE ARE TRULY HEARD.

I SUPPORT HR182.

Mahalo y Mālama pono 🙏❤️🌴!

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:43:30 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR182.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:46:46 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynette Cruz	Malama Makua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely support public input for any lands that DLNR intends to lease to the military.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:05:32 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ty P. Kawika Tengan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai‘i and a Native Hawaiian who has seen the detrimental impacts of the U.S. military leases on our lands, waters, and communities, and the extent to which the military will hide the true nature of its (mis)actions, I STRONGLY SUPPORT this measure as a small step towards accountability and pono.

Aloha Chair Ohno and Vice Chair Ganaden

I am Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, Professor of Hawaiian Studies and Dean of the Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa and I am here to speak in strong support of House Resolution 182.

As someone who has witnessed the destruction of several of the places indicated in this resolution: Makua, Pohakuloa and Kaho'olawe at the hands of several agencies of the United States military, I can tell you that this resolution that merely calls for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to hold public hearings before approving new leases to the US Department of Defense, is just so long overdue.

From the first decade after the US takeover of Hawai'i in 1900, the United States has never had a shortage of lands of its choosing, being granted more than 100 thousand acres for military use through presidential executive orders and securing long term leases of more lands under Territorial and State control—even Hawaiian Homelands at Lualualei and Bellows—very much at will.

Department of Defense utilization of these lands have rarely included a sense of stewardship or care and almost never a plan for returning lands to the state or to the Hawaiian people. And action to clean up after decades of neglect and active destruction has only come when compelled by law. As we have seen in the Navy's response to drain the fuel tanks at Kapukaki, Moanalua, the US military does not respond to public pressure or seem to possess a sense of responsibility to the near million residents of O'ahu when it considers its own mission and its own needs.

At there very least there needs to be public input before any state agency signs over control and use of lands it holds in trust to Hawaiian people and to the other residents of this state. Please pass this resolution.

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:32:03 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Tirimacco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to conduct public forums to solicit input from the community regarding the lease of state lands to the military. Listen to your people - it is their land, not the military's.



**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:06:47 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loke Aloua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of HR 182 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT PUBLIC FORUMS TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE LEASE OF STATE LANDS TO THE MILITARY.

Pōhakuloa on Hawai'i Island is approximately 133,000 acres in size. The state currently leases about 23,000 acres of this to the military. Two of our elders - Uncle Kū Ching and Aunty Mary Maxine Kahāulelio - entered into litigation to ensure that these lands were properly cared for in Ching v Case by the State. The court concluded that there was a "breach of the State's trust duties" to ensure that lease conditions were met and public trust protected. Too, this case determined that the State has a duty to "mālama 'āina" as trustees of ceded lands and public trusts.

HR182 aligns with these findings and serves as a space for mālama 'āina to occur with actual public participation providing greater oversight over ceded lands and protection of the public trust. Public trusts cannot be protected fully without the voice of the people heard and considered. Moreover, HR182 opens a pathway for myself and others to step forward and be a ko'o to our kūpuna here at Pōhakuloa and around our Hawai'i who have dedicated their lives to protecting our Hawai'i.

For the lands, for the waters.

Ke Aloha 'Āina,

Loke Aloua

Kona, Hawaii



**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:57:31 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
shvanthia avilla-coronel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**HR-182**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:18:17 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/23/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support!