
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE ELIMINATION OF THE THREAT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF
THE EWA BEACH COMMUNITY BY RELOCATING THE LIVE FIRE
TRAINING FROM THE PUULOLO RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, the area now known as the Pu'uloa Range Training
2 Facility was transferred from the Army to the Navy between 1915
3 and 1916; and
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5 WHEREAS, by 1934, the range became known as the Marine
6 Corps Rifle Range and supported long-range sniper training for a
7 short period during the Vietnam era until 1979, when the
8 training was moved to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe, now
9 known as Marine Corps Base Hawaii; and
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11 WHEREAS, in the thirty-two years following the departure of
12 the sniper range Iroquois Point (now known as Kapilina) and Ewa
13 Beach were connected by a road inland from the Pu'uloa Range
14 Training Facility, which allowed The Bus service through
15 Iroquois Point; and
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17 WHEREAS, in 2011, Marine Corps Base Hawaii doubled the
18 length of the Alpha Range, which is the closest to the Ewa Beach
19 community, re-establishing the sniper range without conducting
20 an environmental assessment despite the addition of the Marine
21 Corps' loudest small arms rifle shooting from a significantly
22 different location, thereby altering Surface Danger Zones and
23 noise contours; and
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25 WHEREAS, no public hearings or forums were held related to
26 the 2011 Alpha Range expansion; and
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28 WHEREAS, the resulting closure of the access road because
29 of this isolated the communities of Iroquois Point and Ewa Beach



1 from each other and led to a termination of The Bus service to
2 Iroquois Point, eliminating a potential tsunami evacuation
3 Route; and
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5 WHEREAS, a powerful public address system has been operated
6 by the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility personnel in recent years
7 well before 7:00 a.m. as a matter of routine in violation of the
8 Clean Air Act, resulting in hundreds of noise complaints from
9 the surrounding community without relief; and
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11 WHEREAS, incessant noise pollution from simultaneous firing
12 by dozens of shooters commences promptly at 7:00 a.m., and
13 persists throughout the day, sometimes into the night; and
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15 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii recently announced the
16 Pu'uloa Range Training Facility would be used as a helicopter
17 night landing zone, significantly increasing existing noise
18 pollution outside of normal range hours; and
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20 WHEREAS, Harvard Medical School researchers have shown that
21 persistent noise pollution such as that experienced by the
22 residents surrounding the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility not
23 only drives hearing loss, tinnitus, and hypersensitivity to
24 sound, but can also cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease,
25 type 2 diabetes, sleep disturbances, stress, mental health and
26 cognition problems including memory impairment and attention
27 deficits, childhood learning delays, and low birth weight and
28 miscarriages; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility is an open-air
31 range creating the potential for stray bullet impact to schools,
32 churches, homes, parks, and low flying passenger aircraft within
33 range of the weapons typically fired from the range via
34 ricochet, accidental weapons discharge, or intentional directing
35 of weapons fire off-range; and
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37 WHEREAS, false alarm school lockdowns have occurred in the
38 Ewa Beach area due to range gunfire mistaken as an active
39 shooter situation; and
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1 WHEREAS, in April 2021, the Deputy Commandant of the Marine
2 Corps for Installations and Logistics specifically directed
3 Marine Corps Base Hawaii to perform a Range Compatibility Use
4 Zone study via Marine Corps Order 3550.13, and Marine Corps Base
5 Hawaii refused to release the study results after it was
6 properly requested by Ewa Beach residents in a Freedom of
7 Information Act request in 2022; and

8
9 WHEREAS, significant lead contamination and a high risk of
10 off-range migration of Munitions Constituents to nearshore
11 waters and adjacent park and homes have been identified at the
12 Pu'uloa Range Training Facility, and the proposed remedy of
13 moving only the short distance pistol ranges forty meters
14 landwards does not adequately address the long term threat of
15 lead poisoning, especially given that Marine Corps Base Hawaii
16 states no intention to retreat the significantly large A and B
17 ranges which are within two hundred thirty feet of the homes and
18 four hundred feet from Puuloa Beach Park; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the department of Hawaiian home lands recently
21 announced the planned construction of approximately six hundred
22 homes on the eighty-five acre parcel (formerly the Pacific
23 Tsunami Warning Center) directly adjacent to the Pu'uloa Range
24 Training Facility, leaving the Hawaiian families who reside
25 there with little choice in how they will acquire shelter
26 through DHHL; and

27
28 WHEREAS, impact beams at the Pu'uloa Range Training
29 Facility are within tens of feet of the high-water mark and in
30 some cases are interacting with wave activity, causing off-range
31 migration of munitions constituents; and

32
33 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii preferred alternative for
34 erosion migration at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility to
35 include hardening the shoreline with a one thousand five hundred
36 foot corrugated steel sheet pile bulkhead, which is inconsistent
37 with Hawaii Coastal Zone Management laws; and

38
39 WHEREAS, thousands of shooters annually must commute from
40 Marine Corps Base Hawaii to and from the Pu'uloa Range Training



1 Facility, significantly adding to vehicle pollution, traffic
2 congestion, and carbon output; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is constructing a first
5 responder campus in Mililani, featuring a one hundred thousand
6 square foot, indoor shooting range which will significantly
7 reduce the demand by non-Department of Defense users of the
8 Pu'uloa Range Training Facility; and

9
10 WHEREAS, upon completion of Camp Blaz in Guam, the Pu'uloa
11 Range Training Facility sniper distance range will no longer be
12 the only range of its kind in the Pacific region; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility sniper range
15 has previously been relocated to the more appropriate Marine
16 Corps Base Hawaii from Puuloa and could do so again; now,
17 therefore,

18
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2023, that live fire training at Puuloa Range
22 Training be found incompatible with the Ewa Beach community,
23 given its close proximity to residents, schools, churches,
24 public parks, and low flying passenger aircraft flight paths;
25 and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this legislature urges the
28 elimination of the threat posed by the Pu'uloa Range Training
29 Facility operations on account of the health and safety of the
30 Ewa Beach community by relocating all live fire training and
31 aviation activity away from the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility;
32 and

33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Commandant of the Marine Corps,
36 Commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific,
37 Commander of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, members of Hawaii's
38 Congressional delegation, the Office of the Governor of Hawaii,
39 members of the state legislature of Hawaii, the chairperson of
40 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Office of the Mayor



H.R. NO. 171

1 of the City & County of Honolulu, and members of the Honolulu
2 City Council.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line and some additional strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

MAR 10 2023

