

MAR 10 2023

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO RELOCATE ALL LIVE FIRE TRAINING AND AVIATION ACTIVITY AWAY FROM PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

1           WHEREAS, the facility now known as Puuloa Range Training  
2 Facility was transferred from the United States Army to the  
3 United States Navy between 1915 and 1916; and  
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5           WHEREAS, during the Vietnam era, the facility supported  
6 long-range sniper training until the training was moved in 1979  
7 to what is now called Marine Corps Base Hawaii, in Kaneohe; and  
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9           WHEREAS, after the sniper training exercises were relocated  
10 to Kaneohe, Iroquois Point was connected to Ewa Beach via an  
11 access road mauka of the training facility, allowing TheBus to  
12 service Iroquois Point; and  
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14           WHEREAS, in 2011, the Marine Corps doubled the length of  
15 Puuloa Range Training Facility's Alpha Range, the range closest  
16 to the Ewa Beach community, and re-established sniper training  
17 at the facility, without seeking community input or conducting  
18 an environmental assessment; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the expansion of the range and reinstatement of  
21 sniper training forced the closure of the access road and  
22 termination of TheBus service to Iroquois Point, eliminating a  
23 tsunami evacuation route; and  
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25           WHEREAS, since the reinstatement of sniper training at  
26 Puuloa Range Training Facility, the facility's public address  
27 system and shooting exercises have prompted hundreds of noise  
28 complaints from the surrounding community; and  
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30           WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps recently announced  
31 that Puuloa Range Training Facility will be used as a night  
32 landing zone for the Marine Corps' helicopters, which will  
33 significantly increase noise pollution outside of the facility's  
34 regular hours; and  
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1           WHEREAS, persistent noise pollution, like that experienced  
2 by residents who live near the training facility, can cause  
3 hearing loss, increase the risk of miscarriages or low birth  
4 weight, and can cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease, type  
5 two diabetes, sleep disturbances, mental health impairments,  
6 childhood learning delays, and other health, developmental, and  
7 behavioral issues; and

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9           WHEREAS, the open-air ranges at Puuloa Range Training  
10 Facility also create the risk of a stray bullet, ricochet, or an  
11 accidental weapons discharge impacting nearby schools, churches,  
12 homes, and parks; and

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14           WHEREAS, in 2020, range gunfire was mistaken for an active  
15 shooter situation, causing lockdowns at nearby schools; and

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17           WHEREAS, environmental studies of the area surrounding  
18 Puuloa Range Training Facility have shown lead contamination  
19 that is more than seventy times the legal limit; and

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21           WHEREAS, environmental studies have also found that there  
22 is a high risk of munitions constituents, materials originating  
23 from unexploded ordnance, migrating to nearshore waters,  
24 adjacent parks, and nearby homes; and

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26           WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands recently  
27 announced the planned construction of approximately six hundred  
28 homes for Native Hawaiians on land directly adjacent to the  
29 Puuloa Range Training Facility; and

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31           WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian families who reside in these  
32 homes will disproportionately bear the risks of noise pollution,  
33 environmental pollution, and the possibility of stray gunfire  
34 unless the United States Marine Corps relocates shooting  
35 exercises and aviation activity and carries out environmental  
36 remediation; and

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38           WHEREAS, the First Responder Campus in Mililani and Camp  
39 Blaz sniper training facility on Guam are currently under  
40 construction, offering possible alternatives for military and  
41 non-military training; and



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1 WHEREAS, alternatively, the United States Marine Corps  
2 could relocate sniper training to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, as  
3 it did in 1979; and

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5 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps' plan to move four  
6 of Puuloa Range Training Facility's firing ranges inland to help  
7 mitigate coastal erosion does not adequately address the  
8 community's concerns about environmental harm, noise pollution,  
9 and the dangers associated with the facility's open-air ranges;  
10 now, therefore,

11  
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
14 that the United States Marine Corps is urged to relocate all  
15 live fire training and aviation activity away from Puuloa Range  
16 Training Facility; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Defense,  
20 Commandant of the Marine Corps, and United States Marine Corps  
21 Forces Pacific Commander.

22  
23  
24 OFFERED BY:

*Kurt Fevella*

