
SENATE RESOLUTION

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



1 significantly increase noise pollution outside of the facility's
2 regular hours; and

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4 WHEREAS, persistent noise pollution, like that experienced
5 by residents who live near the training facility, can cause
6 hearing loss; increase the risk of miscarriages or low birth
7 weight; and cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease, type two
8 diabetes, sleep disturbances, mental health impairments,
9 childhood learning delays, and other health, developmental, and
10 behavioral issues; and

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

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

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

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

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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands recently
30 announced the planned construction of approximately six hundred
31 homes for native Hawaiians on land directly adjacent to the
32 Puuloa Range Training Facility; and

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

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41 WHEREAS, the First Responder Campus in Mililani and Camp
42 Blaz sniper training facility on Guam are currently under



1 construction, offering possible alternatives for military and
2 non-military training; and

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4 WHEREAS, alternatively, the United States Marine Corps
5 could relocate sniper training to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, as
6 it did in 1979; and

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

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

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Defense,
23 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Commandant
24 of the Marine Corps, Commander of the United States Marine Corps
25 Forces Pacific, Commander of the Indo-Pacific Command, Commander
26 of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Commanding
27 General of the Marine Installations Pacific, Commander of Marine
28 Corps Base Hawaii, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,
29 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
30 Resources, Director of Health, Director of the Office of
31 Planning and Sustainable Development, Mayor of the City and
32 County of Honolulu, and Chairperson of the Honolulu City
33 Council.

