

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, the area now known as the Puuloa Range Training
2 Facility (PRTF) was transferred from the United States Army to
3 the United States Navy between 1915 and 1916; and
4

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 that
8 training was moved to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe, now
9 known as Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH); 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 mauka of the PRTF ranges, which
14 also allowed bus service to Iroquois Point; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2011, MCBH doubled the length of PRTF's Alpha
17 Range, which is closest to the Ewa Beach community, re-
18 establishing the sniper range without conducting an
19 environmental assessment and despite the United States Marine
20 Corps' loudest small arms rifles shooting from a significantly
21 different location thereby altering surface danger zones and
22 noise contours; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the resultant closure of the access road isolated
25 the communities of Iroquois Point and Ewa Beach from each other,
26 resulted in the termination of bus service to Iroquois Point,
27 and eliminated a potential tsunami evacuation route; and
28

29 WHEREAS, there was no public participation in the 2011 PRTF
30 Alpha Range expansion decision; and
31

32 WHEREAS, a powerful public address system has been
33 routinely operated by PRTF personnel in recent years before 7:00



1 a.m. in violation of the Clean Air Act, resulting in hundreds of
2 noise complaints from the surrounding community without relief;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, incessant noise pollution from simultaneous firing
6 by dozens of shooters commences promptly at 7:00 a.m. and
7 persists throughout the day and sometimes into the night; and
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9 WHEREAS, MCBH recently announced that PRTF would be used as
10 a helicopter night landing zone, significantly increasing
11 existing noise pollution outside of normal range hours; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Harvard Medical School researchers have shown that
14 noise pollution not only drives hearing loss, tinnitus, and
15 hypersensitivity to sound, but can cause or exacerbate
16 cardiovascular disease; Type 2 diabetes; sleep disturbances;
17 stress; mental health and cognition problems, including memory
18 impairment and attention deficits; child learning delays; and
19 low birth weight or miscarriages, with scientists investigating
20 possible links to other health problems, including dementia; and
21

22 WHEREAS, PRTF is an open-air range, which creates the
23 potential for bullets to stray into schools, churches, homes,
24 parks, and low or slow-flying passenger aircraft -- all within
25 the range of weapons typically fired from PRTF -- via ricochet,
26 accidental weapons discharge, or intentional directing of
27 weapons fired off-range; and
28

29 WHEREAS, false alarm school lockdowns have occurred in the
30 Ewa Beach area due to range gunfire being mistaken as an active
31 shooter; and
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33 WHEREAS, in April 2021, the Deputy Commandant for
34 Installations and Logistics of the United States Marine Corps
35 specifically directed MCBH to perform a range compatibility use
36 zone study via Marine Corps Order 3550.13, with MCBH refusing to
37 release the study results after it was properly requested by Ewa
38 Beach residents through a Freedom of Information Act request in
39 2022; and
40

41 WHEREAS, significant lead contamination of over seventy
42 times the legal limit and a high risk of off-range migration of



1 munitions constituents to nearshore waters and adjacent parks
2 and homes have been identified at PRTF; and
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4 WHEREAS, the proposed remedy of moving only the short
5 distance pistol ranges forty meters inland does not adequately
6 address the long-term threat of lead poisoning given that MCBH
7 states no intention to retreat the significantly larger A and B
8 ranges, which are located two hundred thirty feet from homes and
9 four hundred feet from Puuloa Beach Park, where thousands of
10 children play each month; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL)
13 recently announced the planned construction of approximately six
14 hundred homes on the eighty-five acre parcel directly adjacent
15 to PRTF; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the native Hawaiian families who will reside in
18 these homes have little choice in where they may acquire shelter
19 through the DHHL, and the pollution and other imminent hazards
20 produced by PRTF will significantly impact their health and
21 safety; and
22

23 WHEREAS, impact berms at PRTF are within tens of feet of
24 the high-water mark and, in some cases, are interacting with
25 wave activity and causing off-range migration of munitions
26 constituents; and
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28 WHEREAS, MCBH's preferred alternative for erosion
29 mitigation at PRTF includes hardening the shoreline with a one
30 thousand five hundred foot corrugated steel sheet pile bulkhead,
31 which is inconsistent with Hawaii Coastal Management law; and
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33 WHEREAS, thousands of shooters annually commute from MCBH
34 in Kaneohe to PRTF, significantly adding to vehicle pollution,
35 traffic congestion, and carbon emissions; and
36

37 WHEREAS, the State is constructing a first responder campus
38 in Mililani, featuring a one hundred thousand square foot,
39 indoor shooting range, which will significantly reduce the
40 demand by non-United States Department of Defense users of the
41 PRTF; and
42



S.R. NO. 221

1 WHEREAS, upon completion of Camp Blaz in Guam, the PRTF
2 sniper distance range will no longer be the only range of its
3 kind in the Pacific; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the PRTF sniper range has previously been
6 relocated to the more appropriate MCBH in Kaneohe from Puuloa
7 and could be relocated again; and

8
9 WHEREAS, live fire training at PRTF is incompatible with
10 the Ewa Beach community given its close proximity to residences,
11 schools, churches, public parks, and low-flying passenger
12 aircraft flight paths; now, therefore,

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

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Commandant of the United States
22 Marine Corps, Commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering
23 Command Pacific, Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Base Hawaii,
24 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor,
25 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of
26 the City and County of Honolulu, and Chairperson of the Honolulu
27 City Council.

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29
30 OFFERED BY:



