



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

April 11, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of HCR28 HD1: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO RECONVENE THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18, H.D. 1 (2024) TO CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO WATER AND AIR CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PUULOLO RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HCR28 HD1**, which would enable a working group established last year to commence and complete its work assessing and mitigating the significant public safety and environmental health concerns and risks associated with the U.S. Marine Corps' Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF).

Testing of soil, sand, fish, and homes - including tests conducted by the U.S. Marine Corps - have indicated that significant amounts of lead may have migrated and may be continuing to migrate into the highly popular open spaces, nearshore waters, and neighborhoods and schools adjacent to the PRTF. This includes the movement of lead via erosion, bullet fragments that escape the facility (as documented by community members), and airborne dispersal from lead dust released upon bullets impacting the PRTF target berms. However, despite their own tests showing extremely high levels of lead in soil samples, and despite the Hawai'i Department of Health's urging to further investigate the risks to public health and safety, the U.S. Marine Corps have maintained that no further action is needed on their part to address the community's and Health Department's concerns.

The Sierra Club emphasizes that there is no safe level for lead exposure, which can pose significant risks to human health, and especially for keiki and pregnant women. **Even low concentrations of lead can impair nearly all organ systems in the body, with the most severe and irreversible effects on neurological development in children. Childhood lead exposure has been linked to developmental delays, behavioral issues, immunotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, and increased risk of**



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

hypertension, kidney damage, and cancer. There is therefore a clear risk that significant, irreversible, and generational harms may be inflicted upon local families and visitors, including infants, children, and pregnant women, who live, attend school, or recreate in the 'Ewa Beach region surrounding the PRTF. Allowing this risk to continue is simply unconscionable.



Figure illustrating the proximity of the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility to neighborhoods, an elementary school, a popular community beach park, and public trust waters frequented by surfers, swimmers, and local fishers.

By extending and urging the reconvening of the HR18 working group, HCR28 HD1 provides a critically needed opportunity for the public and relevant stakeholders to come together, assess, and mitigate the risk of significant harm to public and environmental health and safety likely being posed by the PRTF. This work is highly time sensitive: not only may toxic lead exposure already be occurring for hundreds of people on a daily basis, but a major storm, tsunami, or similar event may result in a sudden release of lead and other heavy metals from the contaminated berms and soil within the PRTF, creating an even higher level of exposure risk that may be exponentially more difficult to remediate.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** this resolution. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 4:53:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in 'Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai'i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group's mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders

together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Green Party of Hawai'i urges the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo

LATE



April 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR28 HD1 Relating to Pu'uloa Range Training Facility
Hearing: Friday, April 11, 2025, 1:00 PM CR 224 Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter strongly supports HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination from Pu'uloa Range Training Facility.

Since 2022 the Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter has been concerned about lead contamination from the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) in 'Ewa beach. Out of this concern we took action and conducted a series of sediment testing along the shoreline in front of PRTF and found concerning levels of lead- 17 times the accepted levels for industrial areas. Alongside local community groups and members we urged the Navy to clean up the soil on site, sample the soil and water at Pu'uloa Beach Park and residential neighborhoods nearby in 'Ewa, as well as sample the reef ecosystems for lead contamination.

Out of this concern for potential lead contamination leading to environmental and public health risk, a working group was established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, to address these urgent threats. However this group has yet to convene a meeting. Meanwhile, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai'i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed.

By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution will hopefully serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address community concerns surrounding the PRTF, such as additional testing and monitoring needs (including downwind residential areas and in

the nearshore environment), and the need for remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental impacts of lead contamination.

Without this working group and collaboration among stakeholders, environmental experts, Department of Health and the MCBH, the health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents, keiki, marine ecosystems will remain at risk s. HCR28 HD1 provides a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter urges the Committees to PASS HCR28 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:36:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Choon James	Testifying for CountryTalkStory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:11:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Testifying for Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina, and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure. We need a similar working group on Hawai'i Island to deal with the military toxins at Pohakuloa.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in 'Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai'i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group's mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among

stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,
Jim Albertini, President of Malu'Aina Community organization



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

LATE

April 11, 2025

Testimony in Support of HCR28 HD1 REQUESTING THE RECONVENING OF THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18, H.D. 1 (REGULAR SESSION OF 2024) TO CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO WATER AND AIR CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PUULOLO RANGE TRAINING FACILITY

TO: Chair Mike Gabbard, Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: Friday, April 11, 2025, **TIME:** 1:00 p.m. **PLACE:** Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

FROM: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HCR28 HD1, which requests the reconvening of the working group established pursuant to House Resolution No. 18, H.D. 1 (Regular Session of 2024) to continue addressing issues related to water and air contamination and remediation arising from the operation of the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility.

The contamination of water and air resources poses significant risks to public health, environmental sustainability, and the well-being of Hawai'i's communities. Reconvening the working group is a critical step toward ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective remediation efforts. Key arguments in support of HCR28 HD1 include:

- **Public Health Protection:** Addressing contamination issues is essential to safeguarding the health of residents, particularly those in communities directly impacted by the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Remediation efforts are necessary to restore and preserve Hawai'i's natural resources, ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems and biodiversity.

- **Accountability and Transparency:** The working group provides a platform for stakeholders to collaborate, share information, and develop actionable solutions to mitigate contamination and its impacts.
- **Community Engagement:** Reconvening the working group ensures that affected communities have a voice in the decision-making process and that their concerns are addressed.
- **Long-Term Solutions:** Continued efforts by the working group will help identify and implement strategies to prevent future contamination and promote environmental justice.

We commend this resolution for prioritizing the health and well-being of Hawai‘i’s residents and ecosystems. We respectfully urge the Committees to pass HCR28 HD1 and support the reconvening of the working group to address these critical issues.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 1:52:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Hernandez May	Testifying for Micronesia Climate Change Alliance	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Maria Hernandez May and I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure. I stand in solidarity with all community members sounding the alarm about the harmful effects of the The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) and uplift their call for this critical working group to ensure the safety of residents.

The PRTF, which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group’s mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives,

and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to PASS HCR28.

Sincerely,
Maria

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 5:28:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR28HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents, including young children, at risk of toxic lead exposure. The Puuloa Range Training Facility poses significant environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. To protect the residents in Ewa, please pass this important resolution. Mahalo.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 3:21:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Bo Breda and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group’s mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant

generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,
Bo Breda

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 3:22:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Peter /Wilson and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group’s mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant

generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 3:26:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Diane Ware and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group’s mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant

generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,

Volcano 96785

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:28:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 4:47:30 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

Susan Collins and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group’s mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,
Susan Collins

Michael Plowman
‘Ewa Neighborhood Board
Military Affairs Committee Chair
KoleaPalms@gmail.com

LATE

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of HCR28** which urges the Department of Health to reconvene the working group established pursuant to House Resolution No. 18, H.D. 1 (2024), to continue addressing the critical issues of water and air contamination and remediation stemming from the operation of the Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) in ‘Ewa Beach, Oahu.

As documented in House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 (2024), the PRTF, a century-old Marine Corps shooting range, poses significant environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling by the Surfrider Foundation in 2022 revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about leaching into the ocean, contamination of nearshore coral reefs and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities. The working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing these urgent threats, yet it has never convened a meeting, and substantial challenges remain unresolved.

Further evidence of the ongoing crisis is detailed in a November 15, 2023, letter from ‘Ewa Neighborhood Board members Liam Chinn and Alexander Gaos to Congressman Ed Case. The letter highlights deficiencies in the Marine Corps Base Hawaii’s (MCBH) Sampling and Analysis Plan, including the refusal to test lead contamination in downwind residential areas or the nearshore coral reef environment and sea life, inadequate monitoring frequency, and the lack of a comprehensive remediation strategy for the heavily contaminated Alpha and Bravo berms, which constitute 80% of the facility’s contaminated

soil. These shortcomings underscore the need for continued oversight and action beyond the current working group's term.

The Ewa Neighborhood Board, Hawaii State House, and Senate have all passed resolutions—specifically Ewa Neighborhood Board Resolution (March 29, 2023), House Resolution No. 104 (2023), and Senate Resolution S.R. No. S.D. 1 (2023)—deeming the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility incompatible with its surroundings and calling for the relocation of live fire training away from its current site. These resolutions highlight not only the environmental contamination but also the severe noise pollution, safety hazards from stray bullets, and disruption to community infrastructure, such as the closure of a tsunami evacuation route.

Until such time that live fire training can be permanently relocated, the full extent of contamination must be identified so proper remediation can be initiated to protect the health of residents, marine ecosystems, and future native Hawaiian families slated to reside in approximately 600 homes planned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) adjacent to PRTF.

The health and safety of Ewa Beach residents, marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would ensure the working group's efforts persist, providing a framework for transparent, science-based solutions to this environmental and public health emergency.

I urge the committees to pass HCR28. This matter demands immediate attention to protect our community and environment from the long-term consequences of lead contamination and other hazards posed by PRTF.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

With Aloha,

Michael Plowman

'Ewa Neighborhood Board Military Affairs Committee Chair

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:22:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Pence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please pass HCR28 HD1

LATE

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing these urgent threats, yet it has never convened a meeting. Meanwhile, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai'i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed.

By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution will hopefully serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address community concerns surrounding the PRTF, such as additional testing and monitoring needs (including downwind residential areas and in the nearshore environment), and the need for remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental impacts of lead contamination.

The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28 HD1**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:44:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

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Accordingly, I urge the Committees to PASS HCR28 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:45:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

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The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to PASS HCR28 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:55:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please support Aunty Hannah Springer for the water commission. We need native Hawaiian knowledge to save our water. Wai is life, without it no life. Mahalo

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:24:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Dr. Matthew S. LoPresti, resident and former representative of 'Ewa Beach and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27** for many of the same excellent reasons articulated already by the Sierra Club and many of my 'Ewa Beach neighbors and environmental stewards in our islands.

In March 2021, while in my third term office, I toured the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) with members of the Surfrider Foundation and I asked tough questions about lead contamination, unfortunately, speaking for myself, I have to conclude that either I feel that we and the public were misled at the time or perhaps the one's providing me answers were themselves underinformed. Having served as the Chair of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs I am very familiar with the USMC's needs for a long-range rifle facility on island and know that the State Hawai'i Department of Health can find ways to partner with the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, but not at the expense of the human or environmental health. Now that we have reliable independent data, we absolutely need to reconvene this working group.

It is needless to say disappointing to see that the Dept. of Defense is becoming less and less of a trusted partner by both political parties in the Hawaiian Islands on more issues than just the Red Hill issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this measures and mahalo to the introducers for continuing this work began by previous legislators, community, and environmental leaders who have worked so long to help ensure that this area is safe and free from toxic pollutants. This is truly a non-partisan issue that we can all come together on to support. Please pass it.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:28:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi-Ann Uyemura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

***I strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.*

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

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The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key

stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

*Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28 HD1.***

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:43:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keili McEvilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

***I strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.*

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

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The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key

stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

*Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28 HD1.***

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Chair San Buenaventura,

I think you may have heard from some Ewa community members urging passage HCR28, and I wanted to respectfully reach out to share a deeply personal story. My wife and I were living right next to the Pu'u'loa Range Training Facility (PRTF) for several years. We regularly swam at the beach park which is only a few feet away from the range. When the Surfrider Foundation did testing that showed extensive lead contamination all along the shoreline which borders homes and the park, we and our neighbors were alarmed. It also just so happened, that we got pregnant around that time. What followed was one of the most painful moments of our lives. 6 months into the pregnancy, my wife went into spontaneous labor and we lost our baby. As we looked for answers in the painful aftermath, no clear cause was identified. However, in the subsequent months, testing of dust for the presence of lead was done by a local scientist (funded by former Rep. Martinez) on the windowsills of few homes in near the shooting range (see Civil Beat article below), and the results came back positive. Several fish were also caught right in front of the beach park/shooting range and tested for lead, and the results were off the charts.

When we shared with our doctors that we were living next to a site with significant lead contamination, we were advised to move immediately if possible as the devastating impact of lead on unborn children is well documented. While there was no way to know conclusively if that is what caused our loss, we were told that should we get pregnant again, the risks were extremely high due to the strong possibility of lead exposure in the area near the range. We made the painful decision to leave our home and our beloved neighbors and move into town.

Numerous tests have been conducted, including most recently last year by the Marines themselves, and all confirmed alarmingly high levels of lead in the berms and shoreline.

We are respectfully requesting passage of HCR28/HR27, because maintaining the Working Group as outlined in the resolutions is critical to the health and safety of the Ewa community.

In my time serving on the Neighborhood Board, my fellow board members and I worked tirelessly on this daunting issue, which has striking parallels to Red Hill.

You may be aware, but the House and Senate unanimously passed resolutions in 2023 calling for the relocation of PRTF due to numerous threats to the Ewa community that were deemed to not be mitigable, including lead contamination. HCR28 is a critical step in the process of ensuring DOH steps up to conduct additional testing that DOH itself recommended in response to the Marine's test results (including airborne dust blown onto nearby homes and groundwater).

These steps are critical as we continue to work with Hawai'i's congressional delegation to relocate the range to a non-residential area and away from the shoreline.

Two Civil Beat stories are below covering this issue, and highlight the urgent need for lawmakers to take steps to address the contamination.

It is difficult to publicly share this personal story, and we greatly appreciate your leadership in protecting the pregnant mothers and children of Ewa Beach by passing HCR28.

Mahalo,

Liam Chinn

[Ewa Beach Residents Left In The Dark About Possible Lead Contamination From Marines' Shooting Range - Honolulu Civil Beat](#)

[Lead Detections Near Puuloa Shooting Range Prompt Calls For Investigation - Honolulu Civil Beat](#)

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:52:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PRTF poses significant environmental and public health risks due to contamination.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:55:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing these urgent threats, yet it has never convened a meeting. Meanwhile, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai'i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed.

By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution will hopefully serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address community concerns surrounding the PRTF, such as additional testing and monitoring needs (including downwind residential areas and in the nearshore environment), and the need for remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental impacts of lead contamination.

The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28 HD1**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:11:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Ancheta Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

My loved ones and I frequent Pu'uloa Beach Park and would like to continue to share memories there. In order to make it safe for people and the marine ecosystem to thrive, there needs to be sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

PASS HCR28 HD1. Mahalo!

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:48:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

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The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to PASS HCR28 HD1.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo
Mō'ili'ili, HI 96826
Sierra Club of Hawai'i Executive Committee Member
Board Member, Hawai'i Workers Center
Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:21:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:49:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tia pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Tia Pearson .and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:29:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiko Yamashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support HCR28 HD1, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination at 'Ewa Beach. My aunties and family live in 'Ewa Beach and I am very concerned for their health and that they may be at risk for toxic lead exposure. My 2-year-old daughter stays with her grandmother in 'Ewa Beach every week, and we all surf at White Plains all the time. All the beaches in the area are highly used by families and I know for a fact there is very little knowledge or education on this issue among actual 'Ewa Beach residents. None of my family knows about this issue, and some of them live within walking distance of Pu'uloa Beach Park, and none of them know about this issue. I had to learn about this issue through a Sierra Club action alert. I am grateful for Sierra Club and appalled that the impacted community is unaware. This proposed working group will help to educate the public. We all should be afforded the care and dignity to know what is happening in our neighborhoods and be able to come together to make decisions about our homes, loved ones, and beloved places.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:32:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is William Reese Liggett and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

A working group established in 2024, set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, has been tasked with addressing the public and environmental health risks posed by the PRTF, yet its leadership has never convened a meeting. New community representation and ever-growing concerns, however, indicate a renewed interest in carrying out the working group’s mission. By urging the reconvening of this working group, this resolution may serve to finally bring together experts and stakeholders to address the concerns surrounding the PRTF, including through additional testing and environmental monitoring needs, and the exploration of remediation strategies that can help mitigate the public health and environmental risks of lead contamination.

The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant

generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,
William Reese Liggett

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:50:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

***I strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air and water contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in 'Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.*

The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) poses significant potential environmental and public health risks due to lead contamination in its impact berms, which border residential neighborhoods and a busy beach park. Soil sampling has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, and additional testing has indicated that lead from PRTF may be impacting nearshore waters and marine life, as well as nearby homes and schools through airborne dispersion.

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The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, MCBH, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 HD1 would provide a framework to bring these key

stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

*Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28 HD1.***

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 8:25:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees,

My name is Keala Fung from Honolulu and I **strongly support HCR28 HD1**, which would reconvene a working group to address air, water, and soil contamination that may be putting residents and visitors in ‘Ewa Beach - including keiki - at risk of toxic lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), which borders residential neighborhoods, Iroquois Point Elementary School, and a busy beach park, has raised significant environmental and public health concerns relating to the migration of lead into the surrounding environment. Soil sampling has revealed highly elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, while fish and windowsill testing in adjacent homes has likewise indicated extremely high levels of lead in marine life and even area homes. Erosion, runoff, and airborne dispersal from bullet impacts may all be likely pathways for lead to escape into nearby areas, and a tsunami or extreme weather event could also lead to even greater and widespread heavy metal contamination and toxic exposure in ‘Ewa Beach.

Nonetheless, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, and notwithstanding the urging of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed to address these concerns.

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The health and safety of ‘Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu‘uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders

together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Accordingly, I urge the Committees to **PASS HCR28**.

Sincerely,
Keala Fung, Honolulu

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 7:03:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the Committees to PASS HCR28.

The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents - including our keiki - marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park, will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the Marine Corps, community representatives, and environmental experts. HCR28 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

LATE

HCR-28-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:57:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR28!!!