



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on HCR028
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO RECONVENE THE WORKING GROUP
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18, H.D. 1 (2024) TO CONTINUE
THE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO WATER AND AIR CONTAMINATION AND
REMEDATION ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY
REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: March 21, 2025, 9:30 am, Rm 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This resolution may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
- 2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
- 3 personnel priorities.
- 4 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") offers the following
- 5 comments.
- 6 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Administration, Hazard Evaluation and
- 7 Emergency Response (HEER) Office on behalf of the Department.
- 8 The Department is aware of the environmental concerns regarding the ongoing remediation
- 9 and operations of the Puuloa Range Training Facility and has worked with the US Marine Corp
- 10 and provided comments on their plans to remediate the site.
- 11 The HEER Office is understaffed, and has vacancies for remedial project managers within the
- 12 Site Discovery, Assessment and Remediation Section (SDAR). The SDAR Section which oversees
- 13 environmental remediation and cleanup of sites is also without a supervisor. Staff is currently
- 14 rotating to meet our regulatory commitments. In spite of these challenges, the HEER Office is

- 1 willing to work with the public and provide an understanding of the Department's role in
- 2 protecting human health and environment, just not in the role as co-chair of the working group.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 19, 2025

To: Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue L. Leolokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee on Health

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025, **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Place: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 329

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HCR28/HR27 Working Group to address Puuloa Range Training Facility

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Leolokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HCR28/HR27, which requests the Department of Health to reconvene the working group established pursuant to House Resolution No. 18, H.D. 1 (2024) to continue addressing issues related to water and air contamination and remediation arising from the operation of the Puuloa Range Training Facility.

Key Points in Support:

1. Urgent Need for Addressing Water and Air Contamination:

- The Puuloa Range Training Facility has raised serious concerns regarding potential contamination of water and air resources. These issues directly affect the health and safety of surrounding communities and ecosystems.
- Reconvening the working group ensures that these concerns remain a priority and that comprehensive solutions are developed and implemented.

2. Building on Previous Efforts:

- The working group established in 2024 laid the groundwork for understanding and addressing contamination issues. Continuing its efforts will allow for the progress made to be built upon, ensuring sustained focus and meaningful outcomes.

3. Collaboration and Accountability:

- A reconvened working group will enable continued collaboration among key stakeholders, including government agencies, community representatives, environmental experts, and military officials.

- Transparency and accountability are critical for addressing contamination concerns, and the working group provides a structured forum for this purpose.

4. Protecting Public Health and the Environment:

- Ensuring clean water and air is vital for the health and well-being of Hawaii's residents. Proactively addressing contamination and implementing remediation efforts will protect public health and preserve Hawaii's natural resources for future generations.

This resolution represents an essential step in addressing the longstanding issues associated with the Puuloa Range Training Facility. We commend the Legislature for recognizing the importance of continued collaboration and urge the passage of HCR28/HR27 to safeguard Hawaii's environment and the health of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:55:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **SUPPORT** these resolutions. The Working group should continue, in order to protect the residents in Ewa.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:03:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition strongly supports HR27/HR28 that reconvenes the working group to find ways to clean up lead pollution from the military shooting range at Ewa Beach.

The effects of lead poisoning on both the aquifer and ocean is long term and damaging to the futures of the next generations of people in Ewa Beach.

Please forward these important resolutions.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:26:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Toma Shiira	Shimanchu Wai Protectors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

We support HCR28//HR27

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 11:28:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Chinn	Relocate Pu'uloa Range Coalition	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Liam Chinn and I strongly support HCR28/HR27, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27.***

Sincerely,

Liam Chinn

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 4:35:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jim Albertini, president of Malu 'Aina, and I strongly support HCR28/HR27, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities. 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 and HR27 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 Committee to PASS HCR28/HR27.

I also want to urge you and all State and county elected officials to please speak out about the health risks of Hawaii schools taking student to the annual "Experience Pohakuloa Day" field trip. This year the date is April 10th. Pohakuloa is contaminated with a wide range of toxins, including Depleted Uranium, from 80 years of bombing and shelling millions of live

rounds annually. It's also a high wind area. Taking kids to Pohakuloa to breathe toxic air is like taking kids to Red Hill to drink toxic water. It makes no sense. Across the Saddle Rd from PTA is Gilbert Kahele Park, formerly Mauna Kea Park. On numerous occasions, our organization detected high levels of radiation, with our certified radiation monitors coming off Pohakuloa toward the park. It's long past time for State and County action to protect the health and safety of Hawaii's people, especially the keiki. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Jim Albertini, president of Malu 'Aina



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

March 21, 2025

9:30 AM

Conference Room 329

In SUPPORT of HCR28/HR27: 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 Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HCR28/HR27**, 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 residences - 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 bullet impacts. 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 hypertension, kidney damage, and cancer.** There is therefore a clear risk that



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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/HR27 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 facility, 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 Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:12:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D., and I strongly support HCR28/HR27, 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.

As a conservation biologist and community advocate, I have seen how environmental contamination can have long-term, generational impacts on both ecosystems and public health. The Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) 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 has already revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, contaminating nearshore waters and marine life, and dispersing into nearby communities through airborne particles.

A working group established in 2024 was meant to address these urgent threats, yet it has never convened a single meeting. Meanwhile, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed. This inaction is unacceptable given the well-documented dangers of lead exposure, particularly to young children and pregnant individuals.

Reactivating this working group is an essential step in holding stakeholders accountable and ensuring that appropriate testing, monitoring, and remediation efforts are implemented. The health and safety of 'Ewa Beach residents, our marine ecosystems, and public spaces like Pu'uloa Beach Park depend on sustained collaboration and meaningful action.

I urge the Committee to PASS HCR28/HR27 to protect our communities and environment from significant, long-term harm.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:30:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

My strong support to address lead toxic exposure that contaminates our air and water. Must not happen by the military actions.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:33:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Germaine Meyers, from West Oahu, and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to PASS HCR28/HR27.

Sincerely,

Germaine Meyers

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:35:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. Please support this bill to protect our people living and playing in these areas. Mahalo

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:51:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala Fung from Honolulu and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27**.

Sincerely,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:27:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Monica Morris and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27.***

Sincerely, Monica Morris

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:35:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Kwi-Suk Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children and grandchildren live in `Ewa Beach, and I am deeply concerned about the environmental contamination posed by PRTF. We need to investigate this and make the needed changes, for the sake of current and future generations! Mahalo.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:31:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:34:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, VC, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HCR 28 and HR 27 to convene 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.*

I live a mile away and everyday I see our keiki playing in the water, people fishing, enjoying the great outdoors and many are unaware of the danger in the soil, the water, and the very air that we breathe. This needs to be addressed.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Karen Luke on Ewa Beach Road

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:02:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am Tamra Hayden the reason I support these companion bills is because I care deeply for my family and friends that reside in Hawai'i Nei. The bills 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities. Many of you may have never seen the effects of lead poisoning in an adult or a small child. It is a picture in my brain that cannot be erased.

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 and HR27 would provide a framework to bring these key stakeholders together to address this risk, and protect our environment and people from significant generational harms.

Since the current administration in DC is hell bent on letting American citizens die (for whatever reason I can't comprehend) it is imperative that the State of Hawai'i pick up the slack. Lead poisoning is horrendous. I encourage you to Google lead poisoning outcomes before making your decisions on these two bills.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HCR28/HR27.

Mahalo,

Tamra Hayden, a West side voter.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:13:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR28/HR27 and urge the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee to pass this resolution.

The working group established in 2024 must be reconvened and take action to protect the residents of 'Ewa Beach and the surrounding environment.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:18:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of this bill.

Respecting the community by promoting remediation efforts to keep air and water quality at Puuloa range at a high health standard.

Louella Vidinha

Hawaii resident

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:26:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Nakanelua	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha respected Legislators,

I write in support of HR27 and ask that you PLEASE CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO WATER AND AIR CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

We can all agree on the critical nature of protecting the Aloha respected Legislators,

I write in support of HR 27 and ask that you CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO WATER AND AIR CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

I believe we can all agree on the critical nature of protecting the ‘āina here in Hawai’i.

This bill offers the chance for peace of mind and improved health to residents in the local area surrounding Puuloa Range.

Please support this bill and show your constituents that you are concerned about the health and safety of all Hawai’i residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Nakanelua

Lauranakanelua@gmail.com

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 1:49:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Christy and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27.***

Sincerely,

Christy

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

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Gregg Takayama
Chair, House Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support of HR27/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 and HR27 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 committee to pass HCR28/HR27. 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

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:34:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HCR28/HR27, 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 lead exposure.

The Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF) 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 has revealed elevated lead levels on the beach side of the facility, raising concerns about lead and heavy metals leaching into the ocean, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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.

I urge the Committee to PASS HCR28/HR27.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:28:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ke‘ili and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities. As a surfer and kanaka who frequents the shores with my ‘ohana, I feel it is my responsibility to ensure our beaches remain a clean and safe habitat for generations to come.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27**.

Sincerely,

Ke'ili

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:12:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HCR28/HR27, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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

I urge you to pass this important resolution.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:37:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gale Mejia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Gale Mejia and a resident of Ewa Beach. I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27.***

Sincerely,

Gale Mejia

Ewa Beach Resident

91-544 Huleia Place, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:47:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support this resolution. Thank you

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:49:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Madison Owens and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27.***

Sincerely,

Madison Owens

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 11:29:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Dias-Machado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Andrea Dias-Machado and I **strongly support HCR28/HR27**, 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 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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities.

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 and HR27 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 Committee to **PASS HCR28/HR27**.*

Sincerely,

Andrea Dias-Machado

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 11:48:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arleen velasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR28/HR27. The military must be held accountable for the heavy metal contamination found on the Pu’uloa shooting range and the surrounding community of Ewa Beach.

Multiple studies over the years have found extremely high levels of lead contamination—far above actionable limits—in the soil, sand, and homes surrounding the range, and even in fish from nearby ocean waters. Lead is highly toxic, especially to pregnant or nursing individuals, infants, and young children, and no level of lead exposure is considered safe.

Most recently, the Marine Corps’ own testing found lead and antimony (another heavy metal contaminant) in the beach fronting their firing range at levels far exceeding state action levels, but concluded that “no further immediate action is warranted.”

Please help protect the Ewa Beach community from further exposure to harmful contaminants.

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 12:50:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren R. Kaiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Kaiser and I strongly support HCR28/HR27, 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 environmental and public health risks that deeply concern local residents and community members who regularly use these coastal waters for recreation and cultural practices. The facility's impact berms, which contain concerning levels of lead, border residential neighborhoods and Pu‘uloa Beach Park, a popular recreational area for families, surfers, and ocean enthusiasts.

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, contamination of nearshore waters and marine life, and airborne dispersion into nearby communities. Even more troubling, the Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MCBH) has taken the position that no further action is needed, despite finding elevated levels of lead in its own soil testing contrary to the recommendations of the Hawai‘i Department of Health.

Despite these documented concerns, the working group established in 2024 has never convened a meeting and is set to dissolve on June 30, 2025, without addressing these urgent threats. By reconvening this working group, HCR28/HR27 would bring together necessary experts and stakeholders to address:

- Additional testing needs in nearshore waters where recreational activities occur
- Monitoring requirements for coastal sediments and marine organisms
- Assessment of downwind residential areas that may be affected by airborne lead
- Development of remediation strategies to protect public health and the marine environment
- Long-term solutions to prevent ongoing contamination of this important coastal area

The health of ‘Ewa Beach residents, the integrity of our marine ecosystems, and the safety of public coastal spaces will remain at risk without sustained collaboration among stakeholders. This resolution provides a critical framework to protect our environment and community members from significant and potentially generational harm.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HCR28/HR27. Mahalo for your consideration.