



# Media Release

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(808)656-3157/542-9489

*“Malama na Koa”*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Army releases Makua final EIS

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – The Department of the Army has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Military Training Activities at Mākua Military Reservation (MMR), Oahu, Hawaii, assessing the possible resumption of live-fire military training exercises at MMR for active Army, Marine Corps, and Hawaii Army National Guard units. Live-fire training at MMR ceased in 2004 pending completion of the EIS. Conducting live-fire exercises at MMR is critical to maintaining military readiness and to preparing Soldiers for combat.

The Army has prepared a Final EIS for its training activities at MMR pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

The Final EIS analyzes four alternatives to accomplish the proposed training in the State of Hawaii, as well as a No Action Alternative, under which no live-fire military training would be conducted at MMR. The Army’s preferred alternative involves full capacity use with fewer weapons restrictions. Many of the munitions used, however, would only be used when consistent with the Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion established for training at MMR.

The Army made a commitment to do this analysis. The analysis has provided the Army with a better appreciation of the ecosystem, cultural resources, and community in the area. Some of the major potential impacts discussed in the Final EIS are associated with soil; surface water and groundwater quality; air quality; cultural sites; natural resources; endangered and threatened species; noise; recreational resources; wildfires; and the safety and transport of munitions through the Waianae community. The Army has recommended several mitigation measures that would reduce the overall impacts associated with the training.

The Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register on June 5, 2009 and copies will be available then at the US Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG HI) Public Affairs Office; on the USAG HI Public Affairs Web site at <http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/makuaeis>; and at the following libraries on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii: Hawaii State Library, 478 South King Street,

Honolulu; Wahiawa Public Library, 820 California Avenue, Wahiawa; Waianae Public Library, 85-625 Farrington Highway, Waianae; Pearl City Public Library, 1138 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City; Hilo Public Library, 300 Waianuenue Avenue, Hilo; Kailua - Kona Public Library, 75-138 Hualalai Road, Kailua-Kona; and the Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library, 67-1209 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kamuela.

The Record of Decision for this action will be signed no earlier than 30 days after publication of the Notice of Availability for this EIS in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the Final EIS, please contact the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, available by phone at (808)-656-3152, or by facsimile at (808) 656-3162 during normal business hours Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time. To contact U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii by email, please address your messages to [usaghipaomakuaEIS@hawaii.army.mil](mailto:usaghipaomakuaEIS@hawaii.army.mil).