

Media Release

Public Affairs Office U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii (808)656-3152 "Malama na Koa"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PTA Wildfire Update

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA (PTA), Hawaii- The wildfire at the U.S. Army's Pohakuloa Training Area has now consumed approximately 2,000 acres and is 55% contained. It continues to spread on the northern slopes of Mauna Kea near mile marker 32 on Saddle Road, while firebreaks have successfully been dug on the fire's east and west flanks. Saddle Road is providing a firebreak to the south.

Currently three civilian-contracted helicopters are being used, while a Hawaii County helicopter used earlier in the day was diverted for another emergency. Additional aviation support is being requested through military channels. Five bulldozers are being used to cut firebreaks. 66 firefighters are on site from the National Park Service, Hawaii County, PTA, and the state's Forestry Division.

The fire began sometime approximately 9:30 a.m. Sunday about a 1/4 mile east of PTA's main gate in the vicinity of Mauna Kea State Park. No Army training activity was taking place on the eastside of Saddle Road at that time.

For more information, call Mike Egami, at 808-656-3152 or Cell 387-8511 or Dennis Drake at 808-656-3154 or Cell 226-2706.