



**Media Release**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Army opens 23,000-acre training area at Pōhakuloa to hunting**

**POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii** — U.S. Army Garrison Pōhakuloa will open the 23,000-acre Keamuku Maneuver Area, here, to bow hunting of goats and pigs, Nov. 17-18.

The Army's opening of the Keamuku this weekend supports the garrison's goal to open training land for hunting to the greatest extent possible.

"Our primary mission at Pōhakuloa is to support training," said Lt. Col. Eric P. Shwedo, commander, USAG-Pōhakuloa. "However, we know that there is huge community interest in hunting here, so it only makes sense that we open training areas for hunting when we can."

The opening of the Keamuku involved close coordination between USAG-Pōhakuloa and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife, to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations.

"The Department is very pleased to see USAG-Pōhakuloa move forward to open up additional hunting areas at Keamuku and provide increased opportunities both in Keamuku and on existing hunting areas on Pōhakuloa Training Area," said William Aila, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. "The Department is interested in helping USAG-Pōhakuloa develop and implement plans and activities to improve game management on the base and increase hunting opportunities to the public where and when able.

"We are working with partners to find and open up new hunting opportunities on the Big Island. We really appreciate the partnership with the Army in opening these newly acquired lands," Aila added.

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The Army and State also engaged community members in this initiative. On Nov. 12, Shwedo and DOFAW met with Big Island hunters at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife office in Hilo to discuss hunting in the Keamuku and solicit their input.

“We had a great meeting, and we want to continue our dialogue with hunting groups and other hunters,” Shwedo said. “We value their input because it helps us develop our hunting strategy for a sustained hunting program on Pōhakuloa Training Area.”

USAG-Pōhakuloa has opened several training areas for hunting every weekend since August and will continue to do so, according to Shwedo. Opening the Keamuku will give the post the ability to close other areas to ensure that the game is managed properly.

“We will open as many areas as possible, but we have to manage the herds to ensure there is sufficient game year round,” Shwedo said.

Initially, the Keamuku Maneuver Area will be open only for bow hunting of goats and pigs; Shwedo said he plans to open the area for bird hunting well before the end of bird season. At present, the sheep population in the Keamuku is too small for sustainable hunting.

The Army bought the Keamuku parcel from Parker Ranch in October 2006. It provides PTA with additional open land that units currently use for non live-fire mounted and dismounted training and maneuvers.

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***MEDIA NOTE:*** A subsequent release will be issued announcing specific hunting instructions for this weekend.

*Additionally, the Public Affairs Officer for USAG- Pōhakuloa is out of the office until Nov. 19. For immediate questions, please contact USAG-Hawaii Public Affairs at (808)656-3160.*