
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE RELOCATION OF ALL LIVE FIRE TRAINING AND AVIATION
ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM THE PU'ULOLO RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, the area now known as the Pu'uloa Range Training
2 Facility was transferred from the United States Army to the
3 United States Navy between 1915 and 1916 and developed into a
4 small-arms range; and

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6 WHEREAS, the range supported long-range sniper training for
7 a short period of time during the Vietnam War era until 1979,
8 when the training was moved to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe
9 Bay, now known as Marine Corps Base Hawaii; and

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11 WHEREAS, in the thirty-two years following the departure of
12 the sniper range, Iroquois Point, now known as Kapilina, and 'Ewa
13 Beach were connected by an access road mauka of the Pu'uloa Range
14 Training Facility that allowed TheBus of the City and County of
15 Honolulu to service Iroquois Point; and

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17 WHEREAS, in 2011, Marine Corps Base Hawaii doubled the
18 length of the Alpha Range in the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility,
19 which is closest to the 'Ewa Beach community, thereby
20 re-establishing the sniper range without public participation or
21 conducting an environmental assessment despite the addition of
22 the United States Marine Corps' loudest small-arms rifle
23 shooting from a significantly different location that altered
24 surface danger zones and noise contours; and

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26 WHEREAS, the closure of the access road due to the
27 expansion of the Alpha Range resulted in the isolation of the
28 communities of Iroquois Point and 'Ewa Beach from each other,
29 termination of TheBus services to Iroquois Point, and
30 elimination of a potential tsunami evacuation route; and

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1 WHEREAS, in recent years, Pu'uloa Range Training Facility
2 personnel have routinely operated a powerful public address
3 system well before 7:00 a.m. in violation of the Clean Air Act,
4 which has resulted in hundreds of noise complaints from the
5 surrounding community without relief; and

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7 WHEREAS, incessant noise pollution from the simultaneous
8 firing of weapons by dozens of shooters commences promptly at
9 7:00 a.m., persists throughout the day, and sometimes into the
10 night; and

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12 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii recently announced that
13 the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility would be used as a helicopter
14 night landing zone, significantly increasing existing noise
15 pollution outside of normal range hours; and

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17 WHEREAS, Harvard Medical School researchers have shown that
18 persistent noise pollution, such as that experienced by the
19 residents surrounding the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility, not
20 only drives hearing loss, tinnitus, and hypersensitivity to
21 sound, but can cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease; type
22 2 diabetes; sleep disturbances; stress; mental health and
23 cognition problems, including memory impairment and attention
24 deficits; childhood learning delays; and low birth weight or
25 miscarriage; and

26
27 WHEREAS, scientists are investigating other effects of
28 noise pollution, including possible links to dementia; and

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30 WHEREAS, since the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility is an
31 open-air range, there is a potential for stray bullet impact to
32 nearby schools, churches, homes, parks, and low- or slow-flying
33 passenger aircraft, all of which are within the firing distance
34 of weapons typically fired at the Pu'uloa Range Training
35 Facility, via ricochet, accidental weapons discharge, or the
36 intentional directing of weapons fire off-range; and

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38 WHEREAS, false alarm school lockdowns have even occurred in
39 the 'Ewa Beach area due to range gunfire being mistaken as an
40 active shooter situation; and

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1 WHEREAS, in April 2021, the Deputy Commandant for
2 Installations and Logistics of the United States Marine Corps
3 specifically directed Marine Corps Base Hawaii to perform a
4 range compatible use zone study via Marine Corps Order 3550.13;
5 however, Marine Corps Base Hawaii refused to release the study
6 results after it was properly requested by 'Ewa Beach residents
7 via a Freedom of Information Act request in 2022; and
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9 WHEREAS, significant lead contamination of over seventy
10 times the legal limit and a high risk of off-range migration of
11 munitions constituents to nearshore waters and adjacent homes
12 and the Pu'uloa Beach Park have been identified at the Pu'uloa
13 Range Training Facility, and the proposed remedy of moving only
14 the short distance pistol ranges forty meters landward does not
15 adequately address the long-term threat of lead poisoning,
16 especially given that Marine Corps Base Hawaii has no intention
17 to retreat the significantly larger Alpha and Bravo Ranges that
18 are within two hundred thirty feet of homes and four hundred
19 feet from Pu'uloa Beach Park where thousands of children play
20 each month; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands recently
23 announced the planned construction of approximately six hundred
24 homes on the eighty-five acre parcel, formerly the Pacific
25 Tsunami Warning Center, directly adjacent to the Pu'uloa Range
26 Training Facility; and
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28 WHEREAS, the native Hawaiian families who will reside in
29 these homes have little choice in where they will acquire
30 shelter through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the
31 pollution and other imminent hazards produced by the Pu'uloa
32 Range Training Facility will significantly impact their health
33 and safety; and
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35 WHEREAS, impact berms at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility
36 are within tens of feet of the high-water mark and, in some
37 cases, interacting with wave activity, causing the off-range
38 migration of munitions constituents; and
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40 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii's preferred alternative
41 for erosion mitigation at the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility



1 includes hardening the shoreline with a one thousand five
2 hundred foot corrugated steel sheet pile bulkhead, which is
3 inconsistent with Hawaii Coastal Zone Management law; and
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5 WHEREAS, thousands of shooters annually must commute from
6 Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe to and from the Pu'uloa Range
7 Training Facility, which significantly adds to vehicle
8 pollution, traffic congestion, and carbon output; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State is constructing a First-Responder Campus
11 in Mililani, featuring a one hundred thousand square foot indoor
12 shooting range that will significantly reduce the demand by non-
13 United States Department of Defense users of the Pu'uloa Range
14 Training Facility; and
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16 WHEREAS, upon completion of Camp Blaz in Guam, the Pu'uloa
17 Range Training Facility's sniper distance range will no longer
18 be the only range of its kind in the Pacific; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility sniper range
21 has previously been relocated to the more appropriate Marine
22 Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe and could be relocated again; and
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24 WHEREAS, live fire training at the Pu'uloa Range Training
25 Facility is incompatible with the 'Ewa Beach community given its
26 close proximity to residences, schools, churches, public parks,
27 and low flying passenger aircraft flight paths; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2023, that all live fire training and aviation
32 activities are requested to be relocated away from the Pu'uloa
33 Range Training Facility; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Commandant of the United States
37 Marine Corps; Commander, INDO-PACIFIC Command; Commander, Naval
38 Facilities Engineering Command Pacific; Commanding General,
39 Marine Installations Pacific; Commander, Marine Corps Base
40 Hawaii; members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation; Governor;
41 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director



1 of Health; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; and members
2 of the Honolulu City Council.

