



### **COMMENTS ON HCR 28 / HR 18**

ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO WATER AND AIR  
CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PUULOLOA  
RANGE TRAINING FACILITY

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans  
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
The Honorable Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **offers comments** on HCR 28 and HR 18.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The Pu'uola Range Training Facility (PRTF) has trained hundreds of thousands of Marines and other military branches in critical rifle and pistol skills that enable our service men and women to respond to our nation's call for many decades. One of the most basic skills is the ability to possess and maintain is marksmanship proficiency.

PRTF is also one of the primary training facilities in training and credentialing state and county law enforcement on marksmanship.



Operators of the PRTF have worked and continue to engage in close partnership with neighboring communities and the monthly neighborhood board to mitigate potential impacts to the surrounding community, specifically those residing in close proximity to the range. Mitigation of noise impacts has led to changes in operation, equipment direction, and scheduling based on community input.

The MAC will work with the Marines to implement new technologies to further reduce noise and related impacts.

We will be pleased to keep the Committee informed of our efforts and believe this resolution is not necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this matter.

**HR-18**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 11:27:44 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/20/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**HR-18**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:16:31 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/20/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Chinn	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I would like to express my opposition to HR 18 (and HRC28), “Establishing a working group to address issues related to water and air contamination and remediation arising for the operation of the Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility” The reasons for my oppositions are as follows:

Three resolutions, including one in the House (HR104), one in the Senate (SR138), and one at the Neighborhood Board level (Ewa Neighborhood Board #23) were unanimously passed in 2023 calling for the relocation of the Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF). These resolutions were based on multiple synergistic, non-mitigatable issues posed by PRTF given its extremely close proximity to the surrounding community, including lead contamination, severe noise pollution, and safety issues related to stray bullets and incoming and outgoing air traffic from HNL (e.g., surface danger zone).

*Efforts by our elected leaders should be on working with the US Marine Corp (USMC) and officials to identify funding and a location for relocation of PRTF, not on gathering people “quarterly” to talk about whether millions of cubic feet of lead contaminated soil located adjacent to schools and communities can be managed or mitigated.*

To clarify, on numerous occasions, USMC has publicly acknowledged that the soils inside PRTF have high lead loads, and the proposed working group would only be focused on evaluating whether lead is migrating into the air or water (it specifically omits discussion on soil contamination). These concerns miss the more salient point—PRTF sits both directly on the shoreline and only 200 feet from residences, in a designated tsunami zone. PRTF is also highly vulnerable to storm surges. Any of these significant events could instantly displace enormous amounts of highly contaminated soils into the neighboring communities. It is not hyperbole to say that this is a disaster waiting to happen.

**The massive stockpile of lead contaminated soil sitting right next to the community is one of the key reasons why both the Hawai’i state House and Senate concluded that the multiple hazards posed by PRTF to the health of the community cannot be mitigated and therefore PRTF should be relocated.**

Given this context, HR18/HCR 28 is misguided and distracts from the primary goal of relocating the range that has previously been established. If a working group is to be established, the purpose should be to identify potential locations to relocate PRTF as soon as possible. Relocating PRTF is not a trivial matter and will require extensive coordination with multiple stakeholders, thus establishing such working group is urgently needed.

Given the aforementioned reasons, I strongly oppose HCR28.

**HR-18**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:21:12 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/20/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Gaos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

19 March 2024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS

**Re: Testimony opposing HR18 and recommending the creation of a working group to relocate the Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility**

Honorable Members of the Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans:

I would like to express my opposition to House Resolution No. 18 (HCR18), “Establishing a working group to address issues related to water and air contamination and remediation arising for the operation of the Puuloa Range Training Facility”. The reasons for my oppositions are as follows:

Three resolutions, including one in the House (HR104), one in the Senate (SR138), and one at the Neighborhood Board (Ewa Neighborhood Board #23 – ENB#23) level were unanimously passed in 2023 calling for the relocation of the Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF). These resolutions were based on the multiple synergistic, non-mitigatable issues posed by PRTF, including lead contamination, noise pollution, and safety issues (e.g., surface danger zone). *Efforts by our elected leaders should be focused on working with the US Marine Corp (USMC) and other officials to identify funding and a suitable location that will allow for relocation of PRTF, not on gathering people to talk about whether millions of cubic feet of*

***lead contaminated soil located adjacent to schools and communities can be managed or mitigated.***

To clarify, USMC has previously acknowledged that the soils within PRTF have high lead loads, and the proposed working group would only be focused on evaluating whether those high lead loads are migrating into the air or water (the resolution specifically omits discussion on soil contamination, but I will not go into that here). These concerns become moot if a natural disaster were to strike, which could instantly displace enormous amounts of highly contaminated soils into the neighboring communities. It is not hyperbole to say that this is a disaster waiting to happen.

Given this context, the resolution is misguided and distracts from the primary goal that has previously been established. If a working group is to be established, our representatives should be looking to establish a working group on how to relocate PRTF as soon as possible. How lead may migrate from PRTF into the air and water represents only one aspect of one issue of the multiple issues that have led to the consensus need to relocate PRTF. Relocating PRTF is not a trivial matter and will require extensive coordination with multiple stakeholders, thus establishing such working group as soon as possible is urgently needed.

Furthermore, there is serious concern about the approach being used to establish the working group proposed in HR18. Multiple members of the ENB#23 (including myself) have been engaged with PRTF and objectively critical about MCBH's approach to the myriad of issues expressed by the community. Nonetheless, HR18 specifically requests that the working group consist of, "The Vice Chair of the ENB#23", who is not one of those individuals. *More importantly, the Vice Chair of the ENB#23 that has previously participated in the unofficial "working group" established by Representative Rose Martinez's office, abstained from the original vote on the ENB#23 resolution to relocate PRTF.* In other words, the resolution is requesting that the only member of ENB#23 that should be a part of the working group is the one who abstained from voting on the resolution. Furthermore, that individual is a retired member of the military whose non-profit organization receives grant funding from the military (such is my understanding). Both facts posit some serious conflicts of interest for the vice-chair, which should automatically bar this person from being part of such a working group, let alone be the only representative for ENB#23 that can speak on behalf of the Ewa Beach community. This sort of "cherry picking" of a member that introduces major bias, while omitting other members of ENB#23 that have been objectively critical of PRTF, reveals a concerted effort by to minimize the true voice of the Ewa Beach community in the working group.

It is important to point out that as a member of the ENB#23 I do not consider myself an activist or a radical, but rather an objective evaluator of things that potentially pose threats to my community. As a representative of my community, I pride myself on making a concerted effort to maintain a fair, equitable, and open-minded evaluation of all issues facing the residents of Ewa Beach. At the same time, I am not afraid to call out the military or government representatives when I perceive injustices, such is the case here.

Given the aforementioned reasons, I strongly oppose HR18.

Alexander Gaos, PhD

Member

Ewa Neighborhood Board #23



Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this crucial matter concerning the Ewa community. The formation of the Pu'uloa Range Working Group (PRWG) marks a significant step forward in addressing the pressing concerns surrounding noise pollution, potential lead contamination, and erosion near the Pu'uloa Range.

The establishment of this working group will bring together experts from various fields, including science, fishing, and other relevant disciplines. The PRWG will leverage their expertise to formulate recommendations that will address these critical issues comprehensively.

It is my firm belief that the recommendations put forth by the PRWG will not only benefit the residents of Ewa but will also have far-reaching implications for the entire state. Recommendations from PRWG will assist in implementing measures to mitigate noise pollution, prevent lead and other possible contamination, and address erosion so we can create a safer and healthier environment for current and future generations.

Mahalo for your dedication to addressing these important issues and for considering the perspectives of the Ewa community. I thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,  
Tracy Arakaki