

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO NOT APPROVE ANY NEW LAND DISPOSITION OR RENEW ANY LAND DISPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY THAT ALLOWS FOR OR FACILITATES ANY MILITARY TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON STATE-OWNED LANDS.

1 WHEREAS, article XI, section 1 of the Hawaii State
2 Constitution provides that "[f]or the benefit of present and
3 future generations, the State and its political subdivisions
4 shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all
5 natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals, and
6 energy sources, and shall promote the development and
7 utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their
8 conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the
9 State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the
10 State for the benefit of the people"; and

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12 WHEREAS, the principle of malama aina requires the
13 responsible stewardship of Hawaii's public lands and natural
14 resources, ensuring their preservation for current and future
15 generations; and

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17 WHEREAS, the United States military's use of public lands
18 has been inconsistent with the principle of malama aina, as
19 evidenced by the environmental and cultural degradation at sites
20 such as Kahoolawe, Waikane, Makua, and Pohakuloa; and

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22 WHEREAS, the United States Navy failed to fully clear
23 unexploded ordnance from Kahoolawe, leaving behind significant
24 safety hazards and environmental contamination; and

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26 WHEREAS, a federal court determined that the United States
27 Army "failed to use good faith efforts to develop a plan and
28 secure funding for clearing [unexploded ordnance] from the high
29 priority sites that the Army was supposed to identify" pursuant
30 to a settlement agreement related to Makua; and
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1 WHEREAS, a state circuit court has found that portions of
2 state land at Pohakuloa are heavily contaminated with materials
3 that pose explosive hazards and significant dangers to public
4 health and welfare; and
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6 WHEREAS, the United States military's sixty-five-year
7 leases of certain state lands are nearing expiration, providing
8 an opportunity for these lands to be returned to the people of
9 Hawaii; and
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11 WHEREAS, the continued use of state-owned lands for
12 military training activities risks further environmental
13 degradation, cultural harm, and public health hazards; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Land and
19 Natural Resources is urged to not approve any new land
20 disposition or renew any land disposition that allows for or
21 facilitates any United States military training activities on
22 state-owned lands; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
26 Board of Land and Natural Resources and the members of Hawaii's
27 Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Ferella

