

DMZ Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina
December 18, 2006

The DMZ Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina network has opposed the Stryker Brigade and other military expansion from the start. We applaud the efforts of Earthjustice and the three plaintiffs - 'Ilio'ulaokalani, Na Imi Pono and Kipuka - in the lawsuit against the Army Stryker Brigade for exposing the Army's violations of the law and delaying the disastrous Stryker project. However we must make an important clarification about the Army's proposed Stryker training activities.

No Stryker Brigade Activities Are Acceptable

DMZ-Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina rejects any and all proposed Stryker construction or training activities in Hawai'i. The Stryker Brigade in Hawai'i is an illegal and catastrophic project intended for deployment in an illegal and catastrophic war. The bitter history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i has demonstrated that if the military gets an inch, it will take a mile, or in this case, 25,000 acres of land. We refuse to allow our sacred 'aina to be used to perpetuate wars of aggression against other countries and peoples.

Why Hawai'i?

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said that the Army failed to answer the question "Why Hawai'i?" and ordered the Army to complete a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) that considered alternatives. But it is unlikely that another EIS will be able to honestly answer such a question that is essentially political. Stryker Brigades are in Hawai'i and Alaska because of the power of Hawai'i's and Alaska's Senators to secure 'military pork'.

Clearly the timing of Senator Inouye's pro-Stryker editorial in the Honolulu Advertiser on the eve of an important court hearing was intended to influence the court. But it is also a thinly veiled attempt to deflect attention from Congressional earmarks as a driving impetus for militarization in Hawai'i by evoking 'bogey-men' – the "unstable, dangerous and well-armed dictator in North Korea" and blood thirsty terrorists at our doorstep in the Philippines and Indonesia. These rationalizations seek to mobilize fear and reaction while silencing dissent. In mentioning the reduction of U.S. troops in Japan and South Korea the Senator failed to explain that the people of those countries forced the downsizing of U.S. forces through relentless protest. We refuse to be silent about the dangerously provocative U.S. military build up in the Pacific.

Redirect Funding to Develop Human and Environmental Security in Hawai'i

In order for Hawai'i to have a healthy economy and true security, we must have healthy communities in a healthy environment and an economy that is not overly dependent on any single source of revenue. The Stryker Brigade expansion threatens community and environmental health and increases Hawai'i's addiction to military pork. We call for the reallocation of funds appropriated for the Stryker to support human needs such as housing, health care, renewable energy creation, and education and the clean up and restoration of military-contaminated areas of our islands. A preference for hiring should go to those workers who were promised jobs under the halted Stryker projects.