

## The military and Hawaiian land

In 1893, the flagship of the American fleet supported the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani's government. Since then, the US has increased military holdings in Hawai'i, as a launching point for American ambitions in the Pacific and beyond. The U.S. military already controls 200,000 acres of land in Hawai'i and nearly 25% of the land on O'ahu. This places Hawai'i in the same league as other military-occupied territories like Okinawa, Puerto Rico and Guam. 54% of the military's land-holdings consist of stolen Hawaiian national lands ("ceded lands").



Access to the beach at Nohili, Kaua'i and the mountains above Keawa'ula, O'ahu have been restricted since 9/11/01. Missile defense tests and harmful sonar experiments are conducted off of Kaua'i. Military-related research is conducted on the sacred mountains of Mauna Kea and Haleakala. After bombing Kaho'olawe for years, the Navy spent \$400 million and still failed to clean up the unexploded bombs to a safe level as was promised in a legal agreement. The Army still bombs and contaminates Makua, breaking promises to the families that were evicted from the valley during World War II. With over 36 fish ponds, Ke Awalau o Pu'uoloa (Pearl Harbor) was once a rich source of food for O'ahu in ancient times. Today, under military control, Pu'uoloa has become extremely contaminated, with nearly 750 contaminated sites (several of which are Superfund sites) identified by the Navy. It is no longer safe to eat anything from Pu'uoloa.

## The military's insatiable appetite for 'aina



The military plans to acquire an additional 25,000 acres of land on Hawai'i and O'ahu to station a Stryker brigade, which is an armored attack vehicle. The land mass is approx. equal to that of Kahoolawe - so while they are speaking proudly about the return of Kanaloa, with the other hand they are taking (with the help of key politicians) 'another Kahoolawe'. More than 600 people testified in opposition to the Stryker expansion and federal pork barrel politics, citing numerous health, environmental, legal, political, cultural, religious, and ethical concerns. In spite of this tremendous opposition, however, leading politicians are pushing their agenda to militarize our home. Please sign our petition calling for the military expansion to end, and for our 'aina and community to be healed.

## Take back our lives from militarism

- No military expansion!
- Clean up, restore and return the 'aina.
- End Hawai'i's dependency on military spending by redirecting funds to environmental clean up and community based economic alternatives based on human needs
- The military must pay just compensation for its use and damage to Hawaiian lands.

ALOHA AINA (P.S. Please sign petition for a moratorium on military expansion. See reverse. Mahalo!)



# KUE I KA NOHO HEWA MA KO MAKOU HAWAII PONOI MORATORIUM ON MILITARY EXPANSION IN HAWAII NEI HONOLULU, OAHU

**I**n the late afternoon of January 17, 1893, as Queen Lili'uokalani issued her formal protest against the illegal overthrow of her constitutional government, she was confronted by the armed force of the United States, assembled in a threatening storm from the decks of the U.S. naval cruiser Boston. She yielded her authority under protest, to avoid the spilling of her people's blood in a battle with the American forces.

In the ensuing one hundred and eleven years, the United States has amassed an even greater force in Hawaii, with more than 245,000 acres of our homeland occupied by the military, including one-quarter of the island of Oahu. 54% of the land used by the military is the national lands of our sovereign heritage, to which we have never ceded our control or responsibility. The United States military utilizes these extensive lands without compensation to our people, nor regard for the environmental or health effects of their militarization.<sup>1</sup>

The litany of names of burial sites, wahi pana, and one hanau which are directly affected by the military includes the sacred peaks of Mauna Kea, Haleakala, Kaala, Kalena, and Kokee; the fishing sanctuaries of Puuloa, Waimomi, and Nuupia; the sands of Waimanalo and Nohili; the valleys of Kahauiki, Makua, Lualualei, Kawailoa, and Waikane; the peninsulas of Mokapu and Kalaeloa; the plains of Pohakuloa and Leilehua; and the moku of Kahoolawe and Kaula-i-ke-kai.

Aina is at the heart of our lives as the people of this land, the people who have lived in this place since time immemorial, and who love the land as one of our own blood and family. We have a permanent and irrevocable obligation to guard and protect this land, and to ensure the health and well-being of our families and neighbors.

It is thus for the life of our land, and for the health of our people, that we, the signatories below, together speak with one voice in calling for a moratorium on the increased militarization of our homeland. We demand the cessation of military expansion, and for the clean up, restoration, and return of all the 'aina. We call for the billions of dollars dedicated to military expansion in Hawaii to be redirected to environmental clean up and community-based economic alternatives based on human needs. Finally, the United States military must remit just compensation for the use and damage of our homelands.

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Petition available for signature at DMZ Hawaii/Aloha Aina booth. Signatures have been collected from more than 60 attendees at July 24 meeting of the Native Hawaiian Coalition, at Honolulu, Oahu. Additional signatures have been collected subsequently. We may use the signatures on these petitions in communications and public remarks on the need for a moratorium on military expansion.

For more information on specific sites affected by militarization, please visit [www.nohohewa.com](http://www.nohohewa.com) for an interactive map.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 28 of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples specifies that 'military activities shall not take place in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples, unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned.'