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Stryker military land condemnation invalid, must be reversed

Groups call for end to collusion between Campbell Estate and U.S. Military

September 28, 2004

Honolulu, Hawaii

The Sept 24 judicial approval of the Army's condemnation of 1,400 acres on Oahu must be reversed, a demilitarization group said today. The statements were made in response to the Army's move to condemn land for the controversial Stryker military expansion, in spite of substantial public concern and a pending lawsuit against the project.

"We are outraged at the army's abuse of their power to wrongfully condemn these lands, as they did in Makua and Waikane, putting the aina at risk," Kyle Kajihiro of the American Friends Service Committee said.

In the Army's 1999 condemnation of Campbell Estate lands in Kahuku, In the March/April 1999 issue of "The Pacific Connection," published by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army Corps admitted that "a decision was made by both sides to expediently clear any "title defects" by condemning the property."

The collusion between Campbell Estate and the U.S. Military in the current closed condemnation proceedings makes it impossible for parties with legitimate counter-claims, particularly Native Hawaiians, to have those claims heard.

"The military is again carrying on in a manner that calls into question the legality and morality of their actions, as they move forward with their plans in spite of a pending lawsuit and the opposing testimony of hundreds of people," Terri Kekoolani of Ohana Koa said.

DMZ Hawaii/Aloha Aina reiterates its demand for the cessation of military expansion; the clean up, restoration, and return of all the 'aina; 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; and the U.S. military must remit just compensation for the use and damage of our homelands.

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Hawaii is the most militarized state in the union, with more than 1/4 of the island of Oahu restricted to military use. Approximately 56% of the land used by the military is Crown and Government Lands (the 'ceded lands' trust), which is a contested body of land to which Native Hawaiians have a direct interest. The Army currently seeks to expand its landholdings in Hawaii by an additional 28,000 acres on Hawaii and Oahu, for the controversial Stryker brigade project. More than 600 people testified last fall against the Stryker project.

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