



# Media Release

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Public Affairs Office  
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii  
(808)656-3154/226-2706  
“*Malama na Koa*”

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Army Releases Draft Marine Resources Study

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii— The Department of the Army released a draft marine resources study, today, titled “*Marine Resources Study Field Sampling Results and Risk Assessment, Mākua Military Reservation (MMR) O`ahu, Hawai`i.*” The study was conducted for the Army by Tetra Tech with support from Hawaii Pacific University.

The purpose of the study was to determine if marine resources near Makua Beach and in the Makua muliwai are contaminated from training activities at MMR, whether proposed future military operations are expected to contribute to contamination detected in the marine resources, and whether there was any health risk to area residents who rely on marine resources for subsistence.

This latest study, which analyzed contaminants in shellfish, supplemented the 2006 study of fish and limu and incorporated results from a 2003 study of sediment and water in the area. The study was conducted in accordance with a 2007 settlement agreement with Malama Makua.

The assessment team gathered samples in two muliwais near Makua (one each to the north and south) and near the Makua Beach shore. In addition, another muliwai near Nanakuli and near the Sandy Beach shore were sampled to provide background data with which to compare the Makua results.

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The comparisons indicated that there is little difference between the contaminants in the samples from Makua and from the background areas. The study also found that while these substances may be by-products of military training at MMR, they are also linked to man-made and natural sources, such as fireworks, rodenticides, gasoline, and volcanic rock. The low levels of most substances detected during these investigations suggest that 60 years of live-fire training has not resulted in significant, detectable levels of most substances in the area. Thus, similar live-fire activities at MMR in the future are expected to be likewise insignificant. Finally, the health risk associated with contaminants in the area is low given the low levels of substances detected and the limited quantities of marine resources available in the area for subsistence.

“The Army is committed to protecting human health and the environment, while simultaneously maximizing the readiness of its forces,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond Mason, senior commander of Army installations in Hawaii.

The study is available for public review and comment for 60 days, from January 14 through March 14.

The study is available in printed form at the Waianae Public Library, 85-625 Farrington Hwy., Waianae, and may be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/shellfishstudy>

In addition, the Army will hold a public meeting February 11 at Nanakuli High School, 89-980 Nanakuli Avenue, Waianae on Oahu, consisting of an informal information session from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. with subject matter experts available to answer specific questions about the study, followed by a facilitated public comment session from 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Comments may be submitted online at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/shellfishstudy](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/shellfishstudy); by fax to (808) 656-3162; by e-mail to [USAGHIPAOShellfishStudy@hawaii.army.mil](mailto:USAGHIPAOShellfishStudy@hawaii.army.mil); or by mail to:

USAG-HI Public Affairs Office  
Attn: Shellfish Study – Public Comments  
742 Santos Dumont Avenue, WAAF  
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857

A final “*Marine Resources Study Field Sampling Results and Risk Assessment for the Mākua Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii*,” including changes as a result of public input, will be published and incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Military Training Activities at Mākua Military Reservation, Hawaii, which the Army anticipates issuing in the summer of 2009.

For questions about submitting public comments, please call (808) 656-3152.

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**MEDIA NOTE:** For more information contact the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs office at (808) 656-3154/3157 or (808) 226-2706.