



# Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Senior Army leader visits Kukaniloko, celebrates 10-year conservation partnership**

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** (Aug. 24, 2016) — As Hawaii prepares to host the International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in September, the Army's senior environmental leader met with local agencies, Tuesday, to highlight the power of partnerships.

Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment, met with representatives from the Trust for Public Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to visit Kukaniloko and express the Army's gratitude for more than 10 years of partnerships. These partnerships involve the Army investing more than \$20 million to protect Hawaii's open spaces.

Since 2006, the Army and the Trust for Public Lands have been working closely to preserve significant lands and resources on Oahu using conservation easements. The conservation easements buffer against encroachment on the Army's military mission and also preserve critical habitats for endangered species in the vicinity of Army installations.

The site of Tuesday's meeting, Kukaniloko, is one of those collaboration success stories. Kukaniloko is one of Oahu's most significant cultural sites, and was a royal birthing site for Native Hawaiian chiefs. It was permanently protected in 2012 thanks to a joint effort by the Army, Trust for Public Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and other state and local agencies.

"Collaborating with organizations such as the Trust for Public Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is particularly needed when unique opportunities arise to permanently preserve critically important Native Hawaiian cultural resources in a way that also supports America's Soldiers," Hammack said.

She went on to add that, "these partnerships are often the only means to achieve the incredible 'win-win' outcomes we've had in Hawaii and across the country."

In Hawaii, the Army has helped fund the preservation of more than 13,000 acres of land on Oahu utilizing the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program. The seven successful ACUB projects completed to date include: Waimea Valley; Moanalua Valley; Pupukea-Paumalu; Honouliuli Preserve; Kukaniloko and the Lihue agricultural lands (former Galbraith Estate); Turtle Bay Makai (Kawela Bay); and Turtle Bay mauka agricultural lands.

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### What is the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program?

ACUB is a tool to address encroachment around Army installations and achieve Army conservation objectives. By proactively addressing encroachment, the Army avoids costly workarounds and/or compromises to training realism for its Soldiers.

### How does it work?

- Army installations work with partners (state or local government, or non-governmental organizations) to identify mutual land conservation objectives and to prevent development of critical open areas.
- The Army then contributes funds to the partner's purchase of easements or properties from willing landowners. The Army does not own the land, but it does help fund the purchase.
- These partnerships preserve high-value habitat and limit incompatible development in the vicinity of military installations.



(From left to right) Mark Young, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Pacific Region; and Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment, listen to Tom Lenchanko, Hawaiian Civic Club Of Wahiawa, share the history and importance of Kukaniloko, Aug. 23, 2016. Kukaniloko is one of Oahu's most important cultural sites, and was the birthplace of Hawaiian alii (chiefs) on Oahu.



(From left to right) Gregg Takara, Trust for Public Lands; Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment; and Blake "Brutus" La Benz, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, visit Kukaniloko, Aug. 23, 2016. Kukaniloko is one of Oahu's most important cultural sites, and was the birthplace of Hawaiian alii (chiefs) on Oahu. The area was permanently protected in 2012 thanks to a joint effort by the Army, the Trust for Public Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and other state and local agencies.