

The following transcript was prepared by Wil Chee Planning, Inc. for the U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu. Errors identified in this transcript may be reported to Earl Nagasawa by email at Earl.I.Nagasawa@poh01.usace.army.mil or by phone at (808) 438-0772 for correction no later than May 30, 2002.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

IN RE: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING)
 TO PREPARE AN EIS FOR TRANSFORMATION OF THE)
 2ND BRIGADE, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION (LIGHT))
 TO AN INTERIM BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM)

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Taken on behalf of the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii held at Outrigger Waikoloa Beach, Ali'i Ballroom, 89-275 Waikoloa Beach Drive, Waikoloa, Hawaii 96738, commencing at 5:35 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2002, pursuant to Public Notice.

PREPARED BY: U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, HONOLULU

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

ARMY TRANSFORMATION EIS SCOPING MEETING STAFF LIST

PANEL

- Borne, Ron
- Hong, MAJ Thomas
- Noel, Gina
- Puttmann, COL William
- Redpath, George
- Schmitz, COL Jerry

FACILITATORS

- Aka, Karen
- Amaral, Annelle
- Lee, Miki

HAWAIIAN-ENGLISH TRANSLATORS

- Arista, Noelani
- Nogelmeier, Puakea

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>OPENING PULE</u>	
Mr. Kaneala Akaka	5
<u>WELCOMING REMARKS</u>	
Colonel William Puttmann	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION</u>	
Mr. Ron Borne	11
<u>EXPLANATION OF EIS PROCESS</u>	
Mr. George Redpath	26
<u>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</u>	
Mr. Kepa Maly	38
Mr. Brian Bott	43
Ms. Lizika Lam	46
Reverend Art Wright	48
Mr. David Bigelow	51
Mr. Ron Hochuli	55
Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald	59
Mr. Roger Harris	62
Mr. Dale Hoopai	64
Ms. Josephine Keliipio	66
Ms. Cindy Evans	68
Mr. Michael Martinez	72
<u>CLOSING REMARKS</u>	112
Colonel William Puttmann	
<u>CLOSING PULE</u>	113
Reverend Art Wright	

1 Wednesday, April 17, 2002, 5:35 p.m.

2 -o0o-

3 MS. AMARAL: Aloha ahiahi kakou (good
4 evening all). Aloha, mai (greetings). My name is
5 Annelle Amaral. And I'm going to be your facilitator
6 this evening along with Miki Lee and Karen Aka.

7 As you start to come on in and settle down, a few
8 things we want to remind you of. Those of you that are
9 interested in providing comment this evening, we would
10 remind you to fill out one of these cards that's located
11 at the registration table just outside the room. On the
12 back of the card is a number. And we're going to be
13 calling you in the order of this number. So you may have
14 signed in on the long sheet and think that that's
15 sufficient for you to be called up to speak. Actually we
16 need you to fill in this little card if you want to
17 speak.

18 There are, of course, other ways to speak. And
19 we'll talk to you a little bit more about that soon. But
20 as people are coming in and getting settled, we would
21 like to begin this meeting, open the meeting with a pule
22 wehe(opening prayer). And we are honored this evening to
23 have with us Kaneala Akaka who will do the opening pule
24 this evening.

25

1 MR. AKAKA: 'Ano'ai ke welina o ke aloha (a
2 warm and affectionate welcome). I'd like to begin this
3 evening in a very Hawaiian, traditional Hawaiian way with
4 a pule, with a prayer. And so I ask everybody to please
5 stand, ku i luna (to please rise) as I pule now and to
6 please offer your own personal prayers. E pule kakou
7 (let us all pray).

8 E ke Akua mana loa, a me ke Keiki me ka 'Uhane
9 hemolele, na 'aumakua na kini akua o na kupuna a pau loa
10 o kea o nei (Almighty God, and the Son and the Holy
11 Spirit, the family deities, the multitude of deities of
12 all the ancestors of this world).

13 We stand here humbly in Thy presence. As we
14 think of the future of Hawaii, for this island, for the
15 warriors of Hawaii past, present and future, for the
16 future of the people of Hawaii and the decisions that
17 need to be made, we ask you to guide us in every step of
18 the way as we kukakuka, as we talk, as we bring our
19 mana'o, our thoughts together to create a future of peace
20 to the world, to utilize Hawaii as the symbol of peace in
21 the world; that the spirit of love may go around the
22 globe in the universe, and that this message of aloha
23 (kindness, compassion) be sent through all of our hearts
24 in everything that we strive to do.

25 We thank Thee for all the blessings of our

1 islands, for the spirit and soul that has been given to
2 the lands, the aina. And that we strive to continue the
3 legacy of our kupuna (elders) who're the kapu (sacred)
4 keepers of the land.

5 We ask the kupuna (elders), we ask our aumakua
6 (family or personal deity), we ask Akua nui (Almighty
7 God) to be with us through this process as we create a
8 better future for the people of Hawaii, and so of the
9 people of this nation and the world.

10 Please be with the leaders, the alaka'i. Help
11 them with their decisions that they may do, and make
12 their decisions from their na'au (heart, center of
13 emotion), utilizing their heart and soul in the coming
14 weeks to do what is right, what is pono.

15 But we ask you now that your presence be here as
16 we share each other in talk and in thought.

17 MS. AMARAL: Mahalo (thank you). Before we
18 begin, we would like to introduce the panel that's seated
19 before you. And I wonder if we could start with Mr.
20 Borne.

21 MR. BORNE: I'm Ron Borne. I'm the
22 transformation manager for the U.S. Army Hawaii.

23 COL SCHMITZ: Aloha (greetings). I'm Jerry
24 Schmitz. I'm the commander of Pohakuloa Training Area.

25 COL PUTTMANN: Good evening. Colonel Bill

1 Puttmann, United States Army Garrison Commander here in
2 Hawaii.

3 MAJ HONG: Hello. I'm Tom Hong, Chief of
4 Civil Law Division, 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army
5 Hawaii.

6 MS. NOEL: Gina Noel, environmental
7 coordinator for transformation in Hawaii.

8 MR. REDPATH: My name's George Redpath. I'm
9 the EIS Project Manager for Tetra Tech, Honolulu.

10 MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Right now Colonel
11 Puttmann would like to make some welcoming and
12 introductory remarks. And then we will talk a little bit
13 about the process that we have before us, and what's to
14 come up. But if I could defer right now to Colonel
15 Puttmann.

16 COL PUTTMANN: Aloha (greetings).

17 THE AUDIENCE: Aloha (greetings).

18 COLONEL PUTTMANN: As I mentioned before,
19 I'm Bill Puttmann. I'm the United States Army Garrison
20 Commander here in Hawaii, and as such have oversight
21 responsibilities for the training facility that the Army
22 has at Pokahuloa.

23 On behalf of Major General James Dubik, the
24 Commanding General of the 25th Infantry Division and
25 United States Army Hawaii, I'd like to welcome you here

1 to our second scoping meeting for the Environmental
2 Impact Statement for Army Transformation here in Hawaii.

3 I'd like to thank you, Danny Akaka, for that
4 opening pule (prayer).

5 Before we begin, just briefly about myself. I've
6 had the pleasure of serving here in Hawaii for
7 approximately two-and-a-half years with my family. We
8 live over on Oahu at Wheeler Army Airfield. I've had the
9 pleasure and privilege to come over on numerous occasions
10 to the beautiful island of Hawaii.

11 Tonight we're here to provide information on the
12 proposed Army Transformation in Hawaii and to receive
13 your comments on what issues you want the Army to
14 consider and address in our Environmental Impact
15 Statement or EIS. To appear here in a few minutes, Ron
16 Borne will talk you through about a 30-minute
17 presentation on our proposed transformation here in
18 Hawaii. The facilitators will coordinate tonight's
19 meeting and provide an effective system for feedback and
20 gathering the input.

21 We look to you to provide to us those
22 environmental issues and concerns you believe we need to
23 address and analyze as we go forward with this EIS. This
24 is the very early stages of the Environmental Impact
25 Statement. And much of what you hear tonight are

1 proposals. But your issues and concerns help us develop
2 a game plan to properly assess the potential impacts of
3 the proposed actions on the environment.

4 An Environmental Impact Statement is the most
5 comprehensive document that an agency can prepare under
6 the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. And this
7 process will be explained in greater detail by Mr. George
8 Redpath.

9 I know everyone is anxious to begin, so, again,
10 thank you very much for coming here and sharing your time
11 with us tonight. I'll turn it over to Annelle.

12 MS. AMARAL: Thank you, Colonel. A little
13 more just by way of housekeeping issues. Refreshments
14 have been provided. They're located on the side of the
15 room here. Please get up and make yourselves at home and
16 get some refreshments at will.

17 Outside you'll notice that there were information
18 displays and personnel available to answer any questions
19 about those displays and provide you with any
20 information. We invite you to walk around and talk to
21 some of the personnel.

22 The bathrooms are out here to the right and right
23 across actually from the registration desk.

24 And the intention is to end this meeting by 8:30
25 this evening. As a result of that, then, you know that

1 we as the facilitators will be watching very closely that
2 all the people speaking will limit their time and their
3 presentation to approximately five minutes. We're going
4 to try to gently remind you to stay within that time
5 limit. But we hope that you will also monitor yourself.
6 Miki.

7 MS. LEE: Thank you. Good evening. I'd
8 like to talk a little bit about the purpose of our
9 meeting tonight. First, it's for you to hear what the
10 Army's proposals are for the transformation. And then,
11 secondly, probably most importantly for us, is to hear
12 back from you on your concerns, environmental issues,
13 cultural issues that you would like the Army to consider
14 in its EIS.

15 The format is going to go like this. We're going
16 to have presentations in just a few minutes. You're
17 going to see a slide show that reviews some of the
18 proposals. After that we've got someone who will talk
19 about the Environmental Impact Statement process. After
20 that we're going to turn the floor over to you and ask
21 you to come up and make some comments.

22 We will call you in the order that you sign up.
23 It's not too late if you changed your mind. If you
24 prefer to not come up in front of a large group, we
25 actually have a court stenographer located out in the

1 lobby who will sit with you and take your comments as
2 well.

3 Comments are also very welcome in writing. We
4 have a form if that's helpful for you. You can submit
5 them later on your own letterhead, fax, e-mail. There's
6 a sheet out in front that walks you through all of that.

7 We're trying to make as many opportunities as
8 possible. The deadline for your comments is May 30.

9 At this point, I'd like to ask Mr. Borne if he
10 would come up and give us his presentation. And his
11 presentation is about 25, 30 minutes.

12 MR. BORNE: As I introduced myself, my name
13 is Ron Borne. I'm the transformation manager for U.S.
14 Army Hawaii. Like Colonel Puttmann, I'd like to thank
15 you all for taking the time to come join us this evening.

16 And I will be briefing you on why we are looking
17 at making changes to the Army in Hawaii, specifically the
18 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division and the
19 proposed projects that it will take to implement that
20 change and how they will have an effect on our community.

21 Why is the Army transforming? Recently the world
22 is a rapidly changing place and all the military services
23 are changing to meet new challenges and missions around
24 the globe. The Army as a whole is proposing to make
25 changes that will affect the way it trains, equips,

1 fights and interacts with civilian populations in
2 deployed areas.

3 The term "transformation" is chosen to describe
4 how the Army will change to meet these new challenges.
5 During our cold war days we had the luxury of knowing who
6 our enemies were. They wore different uniforms and
7 different equipment, and we had geographic lines to
8 describe our differences such as the Iron Curtain, and
9 numerically numbered parallels that separated ourselves
10 and our ideologies.

11 Our combat vehicles were designed to be heavy and
12 powerful in order to meet an opposing army similar to
13 ourselves and much like we had experienced during World
14 War II. Thus, we were always thinking European as the
15 next battlefield, and planned accordingly. As an Army we
16 would move against an opposition in mutually-protected
17 formations to find an enemy, figure out the strengths and
18 location of the opposing forces by firing our weapons,
19 and then move against them to overcome this opposition
20 with force.

21 Today the tactics and our missions have changed.
22 We may not be able to identify our enemies as easily as
23 before. And foes may change several times during a
24 single operation. Our allies are now made up of
25 coalitions, with some alliances forming right before or

1 even during military operations. And our allies might
2 share some common traits as our oppositions.

3 Information or intelligence has always been an
4 important part of military operations. But the speed,
5 accuracy has been increased multifold by our modern
6 information age and modern technology such as the
7 Internet. Now we can rely on remote sensors, high
8 technology and a wealth of intelligence to see a foe
9 before he sees us, and use our speed and maneuver to our
10 advantage and his weaknesses at times so that we may
11 engage him in a time and place of our choosing.

12 Also not all military operations are declared
13 wars or even open fighting conflicts, as peacekeeping
14 operations have become more a norm than the exception.

15 We are not the only unit in the Army to begin
16 transformation. Two brigades at Fort Lewis, Washington
17 will begin; as one brigade at Fort Wainright, Alaska; one
18 at Fort Polk, Louisiana; and one with the Pennsylvania
19 National Guard.

20 As I have mentioned, in the past, traditionally
21 we have been able to predict potential areas of conflict
22 and planned and prepared for such, and that is no longer
23 the case. While we can still see areas of risk for
24 conventional battles which have existed for years, we can
25 no longer be able to predict where the next military

1 necessity will be and to what level the military response
2 is required.

3 I mean, if you would have told me as a young Army
4 officer in the 1970s that I would be marching with
5 Polish, Hungarian and Romanian soldiers in a parade in a
6 unified Germany by the time I retired, I would have
7 thought you insane. The same if you had told anyone that
8 a U.S. Army general would be commanding a multinational
9 force which included a Russian army brigade in a former
10 East Bloc country by the end of the last century, it
11 would be the same.

12 Accordingly, in August of 2001, if someone would
13 have thought we would be fighting in Afghanistan with the
14 help of a former Soviet state, who would have thought?
15 Just as the named areas shown are places we are at now or
16 have been recently, who would be able to predict where
17 the next areas of concern or flashpoint may be? And, of
18 course, terrorism adds a whole new dimension, as it does
19 not know boundaries.

20 Also, as our military draws down in size, the
21 number and frequency of deployments strain the current
22 military force. Unfortunately, as long as some of the
23 darker sides of human traits exist such as greed, racism,
24 hate and violence, the possibilities for these conflicts
25 remain real and the Army must remain ready. As you can

1 see how Hawaii is in a strategically important location
2 as currently we are centrally located in some of these
3 areas for strategic deployment.

4 There are operational factors which define our
5 tasks well, but variety, speed, precision and force are
6 the most dynamic, which face us today and describe the
7 operational requirements of this new organization.

8 Variety. We do not know what the next response
9 will be or to what level our participation is required.
10 Our ability to respond must be flexible and coordinated.
11 We no longer can depend on a built-up infrastructure in
12 modern countries to support our deployment and
13 operations.

14 Speed. Fortunately we are members of a country
15 that takes a long time to decide if it wants to go to war
16 or participate in a peacekeeping operation. However, we
17 also are a military in a society that once that
18 determination has been made, the people expect a quick
19 and accurate response.

20 In the past our heavy forces that deployed to
21 world hot spots took a long time to get their due to
22 their weight and logistics requirement such as during the
23 Desert Storm deployment.

24 The M1 Abrams tank in the lower left-hand corner
25 of the screen, is one of the world's most dynamic tanks

1 and weighs 70 tons. The number of Class 70 or 70-ton
2 bridges is limited around the world and many times non-
3 existent in Third World countries.

4 Many times just speed and timing can defuse a
5 situation and deprive the opposition time to organize to
6 implement their ideas. One of these new units must be
7 able to deploy within 96 hours to anywhere in the world
8 and sustain itself for an indefinite period of time.

9 Precision. Accuracy in timing, movement and
10 execution is a key part in convincing and opposition you
11 mean business. Along with public tolerance for
12 aggressive action under certain situations, the public is
13 also intolerant of innocent casualties or collateral
14 damage. Once force is necessary, precision is required,
15 and many of the soldiers in this unit that will be
16 equipped with laser designators, night vision devices,
17 communications with the command group and intelligence
18 information are required.

19 Force. Force of arms or the ability to use force
20 of arms is still a key necessity of an army. A precision
21 force that's being created must be able to at least be
22 able to use threat or use force in order to get our
23 points across. We no longer are alone in our missions
24 and actions that we take. As I spoke of coalitions
25 earlier, we need to be able to operate in conjunction

1 with other U.S. military services and other nations and
2 their military services in our operations.

3 Our long-term focus is an Objective Force. But
4 to begin procuring and fielding for this Objective Force
5 will take at least 8 to 10 years. Even as we invest in
6 the Objective Force, we must maintain our current Legacy
7 Forces which are unmatched heavy-armored Abrams and
8 Bradley forces, light infantry such as airborne forces
9 and our agile Special Operations Forces.

10 We will recapitalize on selected Legacy
11 formations of our main battle tanks as Abrams and
12 Bradleys, and Apache helicopters. To do so, we will
13 invest in an interim capacity to do what we cannot do
14 well today.

15 The interim capacity is a select number of
16 brigades that have been decided to employ currently
17 available off-the-shelf technology. This current interim
18 force will also allow us to train our soldiers, grow our
19 leaders, develop the doctrine and organize the new
20 formations to meet the Objective Force.

21 We put money into science and technology to
22 enhance that Objective Force. Today's science and
23 technology requirements are priority of the Army. We are
24 challenging industry to assist us in designing that
25 Objective Force. We are asking to get out of gun powder

1 technology and into electromagnetic or electrochemical
2 weapons. We are also asking about fuel hybrid engines
3 for the fuels. And we're asking to get out of steel and
4 for ballistic protection and into ceramics or alloys all
5 to save weight, costs, fuels, logistics and lives.

6 In the future, the entire Army will transform.
7 The question is if the 25th Infantry Division transforms
8 in Hawaii now as a part of an interim force, or later
9 with the rest of the Army.

10 A transformed organization. On the left side
11 you'll see a current configuration of the 2nd Brigade of
12 the 25th Infantry Division. The right shows some of the
13 proposed changes for the Interim Combat Brigade and the
14 overall increase of 480 soldiers and 400 vehicles all
15 assigned to Schofield Barracks, and that would use all
16 the training areas in Hawaii.

17 The organization of the transformed unit. This
18 new brigade will look something similar to the Army's
19 current structure. It will use traditional names.
20 Companies, battalions, brigades. There will be three
21 infantry battalions that will have three infantry
22 companies using weapons like, infantry weapons like
23 mortars, machine guns, mobile gun systems, snipers, and
24 anti-tank missiles.

25 A new addition will be a reconnaissance,

1 surveillance and target acquisition squad that will use
2 reconnaissance troops, mounted sensors, embedded human
3 intelligence capacities, multi-sensors, electronic
4 warfare, ground radar, and an unmanned aerial vehicle to
5 gather information. An anti-armor company to provide a
6 dismounted and mounted anti-tank weapon systems ability.
7 An artillery battalion of towed artillery similar to what
8 we have at Schofield Barracks today. A support battalion
9 to provide logistical support. A combat service support
10 company that will provide administrative and medical
11 support to the unit. A military intelligence company to
12 augment the reconnaissance squadron with background
13 information to be able to forward to the soldiers for
14 their use during the operations. An engineer company
15 equipped as it is today at Schofield Barracks with light-
16 construction type of vehicles. And a signal company to
17 provide the communications needs to keep the digital
18 information flowing between the vehicles, the soldiers
19 and command structure.

20 We'll talk about the infrastructure changes now
21 that are required throughout the state to meet this
22 transformation requirement.

23 Hawaii's in a unique location and provides for
24 decentralized operations like we find in many types of
25 military operations today. It also provides a wide

1 variety of terrain such as open terrain, tropical, urban
2 and desert.

3 While the transformation of the Army in Hawaii is
4 a statewide issue, we will address the islands, and we
5 will begin with the island of Oahu.

6 One of the concerns that will interest the
7 community is the introduction of increased number of
8 military vehicles and traffic on public roads. Since we
9 too are aware that the amount, type and timing of traffic
10 on an island which depends on a coastal road network is a
11 concern of everyone, we are proposing to expand and
12 improve the ability of the Army to access the current
13 training areas while staying off public roads.

14 We propose to establish a new vehicle trail from
15 Schofield Barracks to Dillingham. And also from
16 Schofield Barracks to Helemano. Excuse our technology
17 here. Dillingham and Helemano.

18 We also propose to improve the current military
19 Drum Road to make it an all-weather, two-lane road giving
20 us year-round access to the Kahuku Training Area. This,
21 coupled with timing of military movements, will reduce
22 potential traffic conflicts.

23 While these trails may still need to cross public
24 roads, they can do so at safe, controlled locations
25 coordinated with the county and state. These too are

1 real world training scenarios for soldiers since traffic
2 on restricted roadways is many times a local area
3 concern.

4 Due to the shortage of training acres and the
5 limited available space on Schofield proper, we are
6 proposing to purchase lands south of Schofield to build a
7 motor pool and a small-arms range. While an exact
8 acreage and location has not yet been defined,
9 coordination with neighbor land users will be made.

10 The motor park would be built with the features
11 to protect the environment, and the proposed range
12 complex displaced from Schofield Barracks would only use
13 standard ball ammunitions, like the types hunters use,
14 and will not use tracers, to reduce fire hazards, nor
15 would any explosives be used in this area.

16 While not all training can be conducted by
17 simulations, some tasks can be taught in a virtual
18 setting where precise tasks under controlled conditions
19 can be monitored and strictly controlled. We propose to
20 build three structures on Schofield Barracks at already-
21 developed locations near the existing infrastructure.
22 One building will be built containing an individual,
23 though small unit, virtual trainer not unlike what many
24 police forces have in use today, that use computers to
25 grade marksmanship and small team tasks using laser

1 technology, computer technology much like you see for
2 sale at any computer game stores, albeit a little more
3 complicated.

4 Another building will house a facility for the
5 control, safety, scheduling and maintenance for all the
6 training facilities on Oahu from one building at the
7 Schofield Barracks Range Control.

8 The last is a building which will house a digital
9 university to train the soldiers on equipment, task and
10 tactics of the new unit. It will be a simulations center
11 for unit staff training and for battle tactics, and allow
12 the linking of soldiers and leaders in Hawaii with other
13 training facilities, databases and like units around the
14 world.

15 In conjunction with the urban live-fire area at
16 Schofield Barracks, there will be many other urban
17 fighting tactics and peacekeeping type operations that
18 will be trained without live ammunition. We would like
19 to propose to build a mock city at old, disturbed site in
20 the Kahuku Training Area. This would be a non-live-fire
21 urban fighting facility that would replicate multiple
22 situations over a wide variety of tasks simultaneously,
23 like the law enforcement agencies have these types of
24 buildings of complex computerized facilities that
25 simulate anything from simple law enforcement task to a

1 complex conventional military operation. There will be
2 no live firing of weapons in these facilities. We will
3 only use blanks and simulation pyrotechnics.

4 These facilities would renovate current unused
5 buildings at all three locations and construct several
6 more buildings at two of the three sites.

7 Now we will address the Big Island. Like on
8 Oahu, one of the concerns will be the introduction of
9 increased number of military vehicles and interest to the
10 public of traffic on public roads. Again, we are
11 proposing to expand and improve the ability of the Army
12 to access the current training areas at Pohakuloa while
13 staying off the public roadways.

14 We are proposing to renovate the vehicle trail
15 from Kawaihae, which remains our current primary port of
16 entrance to the Big Island, to the training area itself.
17 This will maintain separation of military traffic
18 destined for Pohakuloa and civil traffic. The exact
19 route of the trail may not follow the current route as we
20 will look for many different options to decide where the
21 trail will be placed.

22 Two new range complexes will need to be built at
23 Pohakuloa. These also will be multiuse ranges for
24 reduced costs, maintenance and impacts to the environment
25 and promoting facilities that do multiple tasks over much

1 smaller areas.

2 Another large battle area complexes will be built
3 to allow the soldiers to train as a part of a larger unit
4 of battalion size and larger, allowing them to choose
5 target areas and firing points as they would do in combat
6 situations. It would also allow the soldier to train
7 with the new vehicles in live-fire training tasks and
8 with other weapons and units. This range will allow for
9 the use of the weapons systems available to the brigade
10 commander of an Interim Brigade Combat Team such as
11 artillery attack helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

12 We are also proposing to purchase land west of
13 Pohakuloa for maneuver training where soldiers can
14 operate vehicles in training scenarios and in organized
15 units using tactics of mutually supporting each other in
16 non-live-fire training maneuvers. Vehicles will operate
17 as an organized operation. There will be no ranges built
18 in this area. We will only use blanks or simulations, or
19 pyrotechnic simulations. This simulates open and rolling
20 terrain and provides a variety of physical conditions to
21 increase soldiers', units', and leaders' experience base.

22 Other infrastructure changes that need to be made
23 in order to meet these other requirements for the base
24 infrastructure: We will need to improve Wheeler Army
25 Airfield to allow for use by C-130 turboprop aircraft for

1 training deployment of the Interim Brigade Combat Team by
2 strengthening the runway and improving the parking areas.

3 Bradshaw will need strengthening of the existing
4 runways and improving parking for cargo aircraft such as
5 the new C-17 aircraft so that options exist for
6 deployment to Pohakuloa from Schofield Barracks for
7 realistic training.

8 In order to meet the requirements of deployment
9 for real world missions and training, we will need to
10 build a deployment facility at Wheeler Army Airfield for
11 preparations of units and vehicles prior to loading on
12 ships or aircraft.

13 To be able to prepare cargo for air loading or
14 parachute rigging, we will need to a rigger facilities
15 section to the Air Force Joint Mobility Center at Hickam
16 Air Force Base.

17 To clean vehicles, prepare equipment for
18 deployment and preparation for maintenance and also
19 prevent the spread of weeds, three vehicle wash racks are
20 required, one at Schofield Barracks, one at the Kahukus
21 and one to support Pohakuloa on the Big Island.

22 Additionally we will need to add three new
23 ammunition storage facilities to the existing storage
24 area at Pohakuloa.

25 The current fuel storage and distribution

1 facility at Schofield Barracks will need to be improved
2 to handle the increased number of vehicles.

3 Barracks and family housing will be improved to
4 meet the increased number of soldiers and families
5 assigned to the brigade.

6 A local area network for computer system data
7 connectivity will need to be improved at Schofield and to
8 Pohakuloa to handle the increased data transmission load.
9 Fiber optic lines will be replaced or augmented existing
10 places they are at now and expanded to new facilities.

11 We propose to install communications towers on
12 Army lands to provide the necessary data link between the
13 vehicles, the Internet and the command structures. These
14 towers will resemble small cellular phone towers.

15 All of our proposals will increase the size of
16 one Army unit in Hawaii and require 32 projects to
17 support the interim transformation of the Interim Brigade
18 Combat Team, which is the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry
19 Division.

20 And that concludes my portion of the briefing.

21 MS. LEE: Thank you, Ron. Mr. Redpath.
22 George is from Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech is the company
23 that is handling the Environmental Impact Statement.

24 MR. REDPATH: Aloha (greetings). Good
25 evening. Thank you for spending your evening here with

1 us tonight attending this public scoping meeting to
2 assist us in the preparation of the Environmental Impact
3 Statement for the Army Transformation project.

4 The EIS is a public document whose purpose is to
5 provide the decision makers, in this case the Army, the
6 information required to make a fully informed decision as
7 spelled out in the National Environmental Policy Act or
8 NEPA.

9 NEPA directs all federal agencies to examine the
10 environmental consequences of any major federal action
11 that significantly affects the quality of the human
12 environment and provides an inter-disciplinary framework
13 to evaluate the impacts of federal actions. Furthermore,
14 NEPA opens the federal decision-making process to public
15 involvement and scrutiny. This scoping meeting and the
16 EIS we will be preparing are part of that process.

17 The EIS will evaluate impacts on Army
18 installations, training ranges and surrounding lands and
19 communities in Hawaii, focusing on the islands of Oahu
20 and Hawaii. The EIS is a comprehensive, full-disclosure
21 document that assesses the cultural, social and economic
22 and environmental effects, both positive and negative, of
23 a proposed project and all the alternatives under
24 consideration.

25 The EIS process includes a Draft EIS, which is

1 released to the public for comment, and a Final EIS,
2 which will address the public comments and selects a
3 preferred alternative.

4 The EIS will provide a full and fair discussion
5 of significant environmental impacts associated with a
6 proposed action, in this case the Army transformation of
7 the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, Light, to
8 an Interim Brigade Combat Team -- and will inform the
9 decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives
10 that would avoid or minimize any adverse impacts caused
11 by the action.

12 A Notice of Intent was published in the U.S.
13 Government's Federal Register last month on March 4th
14 stating that the Army intends to prepare an Environmental
15 Impact Statement to address the Army transformation in
16 Hawaii. Publication of that notice initiated the NEPA
17 requirement for public involvement referred to as the
18 scoping process.

19 As you can see by this flow chart here by the
20 "You are Here" arrow, this is your first opportunity to
21 comment on this project. Your attendance here this
22 evening is an integral part of that process. The purpose
23 is to receive input from you on the issues that you would
24 like to see addressed in the EIS as it relates to the
25 Army's transformation. Your oral and written comments

1 will be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS.
2 And the deadline for submission of written comments is
3 May 30.

4 In addition to this public forum, you can also
5 provide written comments, as was discussed earlier, or on
6 our website which is indicated on one of the handouts.

7 The Draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and
8 released for public comment in February 2003. Once the
9 draft EIS is published, there will be a 45-day review
10 period during which you can provide additional written
11 comments on the draft EIS.

12 In addition, the Army currently plans to hold
13 public meetings, hearings during the review period to
14 receive input on the draft EIS. The comments received at
15 that stage will be addressed in the final EIS that is
16 scheduled for completion in August 2003.

17 And, finally, following a 30-day public review
18 period, it is anticipated that the Record of Decision
19 would be issued in October 2003.

20 I thank you all for your attendance here tonight
21 and look forward to your participation in this process.

22 MS. AMARAL: At this point, before we move
23 into the public comment area, we would like to invite
24 you, if have any specific technical questions for either
25 Ron Borne or George Redpath, this would be the occasion

1 to ask those clarifying questions. We'll have two people
2 going around with a hand-held mike.

3 There is a question here in the front. Oh, I
4 see, you're in the back. Go ahead. Would you please
5 identify yourself, and go ahead and ask your question?

6 MS. KELIPIO: Josephine Keliipio. I missed
7 a whole bunch, but he said -- he talked about
8 strengthening something at Bradshaw Air Force Base. And
9 I don't know all the military lingo. I don't know what
10 he meant by that. What does that mean? Lengthen the
11 strip? What does "strengthen" mean. That's my question.

12 MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Colonel Puttmann?

13 COL PUTTMANN: Bradshaw is an airfield that
14 we have on the Pohakuloa Training Area. Currently, the
15 tarmac can only handle certain weight limits. What we
16 would do is increase the weight limit capability of that
17 air field -- that's one of the proposals -- so that we
18 would be able to bring aircraft in there and deploy
19 soldiers as if they were going into a theater of
20 operation.

21 MS. AMARAL: Thank you. I think we have a
22 question in the front.

23 MR. BOTT: My name is Brian Bott. Mr.
24 Borne, I appreciate the briefing. I wonder why the
25 Army's portion of it was broken out from the overall

1 debriefing, if in fact available, I would assume the Navy
2 and the Air Force, and also, Marines are also going to be
3 engaging civil engineering projects, or is this the forum
4 to ask that question?

5 COL PUTTMANN: They have not shared their
6 plans with us to the degree that we would feel
7 comfortable to briefing their plans. This really -- we
8 try to focus this on the impact of an IBCT, Interim
9 Brigade Combat Team, which General Shinseki had told us -
10 the Army -- to go ahead and transition to. We're on
11 course to do that. Certainly, there's a jointness to
12 every operation that we do now. And the C-17s, that's
13 identified earlier, were participating with us to
14 bringing forces into Bradshaw. But we did not disconnect
15 it. And we really had not put this transformation or
16 IBCT -- it's a pretty narrow focus really -- in the
17 context of something overall to the Department of
18 Defense.

19 Does that answer your question?

20 MR. BOTT: Yes.

21 COL PUTTMANN: Okay.

22 MS. AMARAL: Are there any other technical
23 questions? Yes. In the back of the room, could you hold
24 your hand up so she can find you?

25 Thank you.

1 MS. KELIPIO: Do I ask all my questions at
2 once?

3 MS. AMARAL: This is the point at which you
4 can ask technical clarifications from the two presenters.
5 Then after this is done, then we would invite you up to
6 make a comment. So if you're unable to make comment
7 because you need clarification, this is the time to ask
8 for clarification.

9 MR. KELIPIO: That fellow in the red again,
10 he said -- he mentioned realistic training. What does
11 realistic training mean?

12 MR. BORNE: As the Army is, and all military
13 services found out in the past, the more real you can
14 make the training, just like any type of police training,
15 fire department training, the more realistic you can make
16 it, the better those individuals are prepared when they
17 meet up with that real situation. Like fire departments
18 or police departments, soldiers are the same way. So what
19 we try to do is replicate the situation as safely as we
20 can with as much realism as we can to promote that type
21 of training habit in the soldiers in the division.

22 MS. KELIPIO: So you're using live stuff?

23 MR. BORNE: On the range facilities that I
24 spoke of, those that are range facilities at Pohakuloa
25 and Schofield, and the same impact areas, those would use

1 live or training ammunitions. The other facilities, the
2 virtual, as we spoke of, simulators Schofield and
3 maneuver areas, would not be done with real ammunitions,
4 would be done with blanks or pyrotechnics like fireworks.

5 MS. KELIPIO: And that picture you had of
6 those ammunition storage sheds, what's in there?

7 MR. BORNE: The pictures that were shown
8 were actually pictures of the ammunition igloos or
9 storage areas at Pohakuloa training area. And while
10 units are up there at Pohakuloa, they will store their
11 training ammunition. That is not a facility for long-
12 term storage of war stocks; that's done on the island of
13 Oahu. So during the times that units are deployed up
14 there for training, for safety reasons, they will store
15 that training ammunition in those ammunition bunkers or
16 igloos.

17 MS. KELIPIO: Are there no nuclear weapons
18 in there?

19 MR. BORNE: There are no nuclear weapons
20 stored in Pohakuloa.

21 MS. AMARAL: Thank you very much. There is
22 another question down here.

23 MS. LAM: Thanks. My name is Lizika Lam.
24 And you said you were going to be using blanks in the new
25 proposed area. And my question is, do those have the

1 same -- they emit the same amount of noise as live
2 ammunition does?

3 COL PUTTMANN: Not necessarily the same
4 amount of noise, but would be limited, would be small-arm
5 blank ammunition for the most part when they go out and
6 do maneuver trainings, which is force-on-force training.

7 MS. AMARAL: Yes?

8 MS. KELIPIO: Sorry, I came in late. I
9 commuted from Kona.

10 MS. AMARAL: Thank you.

11 MS. KELIPIO: And but, one thing I might
12 have missed is, is this something that is happening more
13 -- I mean are you doing more expansion on this island
14 because you have to get out of Makua Valley?

15 COL PUTTMANN: Makua is really what we're
16 using for current force training. These are two separate
17 environmental impact statements. There's no correlation
18 between Makua and the Interim Brigade Combat Team we're
19 developing training for here.

20 MS. AMARAL: Sir, there's a question here.

21 MR. KING: I'm Jerry King. My concern -- my
22 question deals with noise. And you talk about things --
23 and yet, there doesn't seem to be any explanation on how
24 much more noise there will be than it is now.

25 COL PUTTMANN: I think that would be a part

1 of our study. I don't know how to answer that question
2 of whether there is more noise than there is now. It
3 just would be different locations. And we'll take a look
4 at any kind of noise implications that we've had in any
5 proposed areas that we looked into continue training or
6 look to start training in.

7 MR. KING: In other words, the next draft
8 would come up and say how much more noise, where, and
9 how, and how often?

10 COL PUTTMANN: That is correct.

11 MS. AMARAL: During the comment period -- oh
12 sorry, George, did want to say something? Okay. During
13 the comment period if noise is a concern, then this is
14 the time to get it onto the record, and ask that
15 consideration be given to noise and its impact upon the
16 surrounding population, during the comment period

17 Any other clarifying questions? If not, then I'd
18 like to move into the comment period. A brief reminder
19 for those of you that have just joined us. If you wish
20 to make a comment for the record, I'd ask you to pick up
21 one of these index cards, which is found out at the
22 registration table. We need you to fill it out. On the
23 back of it iss a number. You will be called in the order
24 of this -- these numbers as they're given to us. So if
25 you signed in on the long form, and think that that is

1 then enough, it's not. We need you to fill this out.

2 Comments can be given in a number of different
3 ways. Here, this evening, this meeting is on the record,
4 as you note, there's a stenographer off of -- behind the
5 panel, and she is taking verbatim transcript on
6 everything that is said this evening.

7 The other way that you can -- so when you come up
8 here and you make comments, that gets on the verbatim
9 record. The other way that you can get onto the record
10 is to turn in to -- or to drop off in the box just
11 outside, your written comment on a piece of paper, on the
12 form that's provided out there, and that then gets put on
13 to the record.

14 The third way is for you to mail, fax, deliver to
15 the address below on this form your written comment
16 before May 30th, at that day -- since you got the record.

17 We make no distinguishment -- we do not
18 distinguish in the form that the comment came into. All
19 have equal weight. So whether you are commenting at the
20 microphone this evening, or faxing some handwritten
21 comment by May 30th, it doesn't matter. All are the
22 same, they're all for the record.

23 For those of you this evening who wish to make
24 comment, but to speak in Hawaiian, because many gathered
25 here do not have the ability to understand Hawaiian, we

1 would ask you to either to translate yourself your
2 comments, or if you wish to have it translated, then Mr.
3 Puakea Nogelmeier is here this evening, an you can confer
4 with him about what comfort level you have with respect
5 to the translation. If you want to keep it on the record
6 just in Hawaiian, then he will review the written record
7 at a later date to translate it into Hawaiian later. So
8 there are a number of ways that you can put olelo
9 makuahine (speak Hawaiian; mother tongue) onto the
10 record.

11 As I told you before, what the Army is looking
12 for, essentially, is some guidance from the community
13 with respect to environmental issues. They're looking
14 for some guidance on issues with respect to air, soil,
15 water, land, or cultural issues. And that will help them
16 to guide the EIS as they write it, as they create it.

17 We ask this evening that as you are speaking,
18 that those of you in the audience will give your full
19 attention to the speaker. We don't interrupt one
20 another. The interruption makes it difficult for the
21 stenographer to be able to record what is being said. We
22 give every one -- we treat every one with respect. And
23 in part, that's what we, as facilitators, like to see
24 take place.

25 We also are up here to ask that you try to stay

1 within your five-minute time limit, and we'll gently try
2 to remind you.

3 Okay. I think we're ready to begin now. The
4 first speaker is Kepa Maly. The second, Brian Bott.
5 Kepa? Aloha, come.

6 Sorry I didn't make that clear. I wonder if
7 those of you making comment would come to the front of
8 the room and speak from this podium here. Thank you.

9 And the second speaker is Brian Bott. B-O-T-T.

10 MR. MALY: Aloha (greetings).

11 THE AUDIENCE: Aloha (greetings).

12 MR. MALY: First, for the kama'aina (long-
13 time residents, especially those born in a place), I
14 apologize for being first one up here, but I did want to
15 address a couple of points of concern. And I'm speaking
16 on several levels, but as an ethnographer, one who has
17 spent many years in the field with native kama'aina
18 (long-time residents or those born in a place), and of
19 the Waikoloa, Humu'ula Ka'ohe, Waimea region lands,
20 various lands on the island of Hawaii, and in other areas
21 as well. I wanted to try and ensure that this idea of --
22 as was just mentioned, that they were looking at natural
23 resources, cultural resources, environmental issues.

24 As I understand it, from translating native
25 texts, working with elder Native Hawaiian kupuna

1 (elders), nature and culture are one and the same in the
2 Hawaiian context. You don't separate into culture,
3 indeed, this is dynamic as the nature around them.

4 Pohakuloa is a story and place name, named for a
5 deity itself, Keamoku, or Keamuku, depending on the
6 pronunciation of the speaker, is a significant place in
7 the landscape. And this was something that wasn't
8 addressed this evening, but in the work that I've been
9 doing with elder kama'aina (long-time residents or those
10 born in a place), people associated with Parker Ranch
11 lands, there has been some discussion in the community
12 about Keamuku. And I believe it may be a 12,000-acre
13 parcel that is potentially being sold by Parker now as
14 they're divesting their interests to the Army.

15 Is this the case? And let us ensure that, if it
16 is, and I'm not going to address the ceded lands issues,
17 although Keamuku, a part of Waikoloa, is not ceded lands;
18 it is a Mahele grant, I believe a 519B to George Davis,
19 who -- or Mahele award, I should say.

20 The land is not a part of the ceded land issue.
21 And again, I don't want to go there, but I'd like to talk
22 about why -- point out this story of landscapes, as we
23 said Pohakuloa, named for deity, or guard, guardian,
24 partner with Pohakuokane (another deity), were the
25 guardians of the waters of Waiiau, peace waters of life of

1 Maunakea, that gave birth to the place name of Waikii, of
2 Waikoloa, of Honua'ula, of Kipahe'ewai (ph), story
3 landscapes and surround PTA lands.

4 In looking at native testimonies that were taken
5 in the 1850s, '60s, before the boundary commission, we
6 see that the places like Pu'u Ke'eke'e, as an example,
7 which is an actively used part of the PTA today, was also
8 a heiau or a heiau was associated with that pu'u. It was
9 one of four on the mountain lands Ahu a Umi, Ke'eke'e,
10 Hale Pohaku, or Hale Maunapohaku, as it was called in the
11 native text in 1963 and Pohaku o Hanalei, Hale
12 Maunapohaku is on Mauna Kea, ke'eke'e and Nakupuni) are
13 on the kula, or flatlands in Pohakuloa, and Pohaku o
14 Hanalei was on, near the summit of Maunaloa. But sort of
15 a coordinates on the mountain lands.

16 There are these important places that have been
17 described in native accounts. And one of the things that
18 I hope that you will do in your EIS process is ensure
19 that we don't just stop it -- and I don't mean in offense
20 to many aspects of the cultural assessment work that's
21 done today, but we can't just skim the surface. It's
22 very easy for us to go look at a few published reports
23 that have been done by people that are generally not of
24 this landscape, also who don't take the time, or don't
25 have the time or opportunity, perhaps, the expertise, to

1 look into the native language materials that contains
2 stories of that landscape.

3 They, those stories, are then often perpetuated
4 or kept live in native families, and other kama'aina
5 (long-time residents or those born in a place) families,
6 even non-Hawaiian families, who worked the land. In oral
7 history process, it's going to be very important what
8 you're doing, because there are families, individuals in
9 their eighties and nineties, and I see Dr. Lucking here,
10 and Kanalei Shun; they understand this process, and since
11 I saw you in the field in July at Ahu a umi last year,
12 I've continued interviews with elders in their eighties
13 and nineties. And these people are not going to be with
14 us for long. And it's easy for us to lose that history
15 and the continuity, how tradition ties to who these
16 family are today.

17 It's important to note that as you move into that
18 side of Pohakuloa, Keamuku, Pu'u Ke'eke'e, Na'ohule'elua,
19 that these are important story places, the trails and
20 access are described in native accounts and historic
21 accounts. So what I would just urge you is ensure that
22 you go out, let's not just sit at the surface, but delve
23 a little deeper into the histories and traditions.

24 Again, coming back to Ke'eke'e for just a moment.
25 Right on the side of Ke'eke'e is the old trail that

1 connects between the Keauhou, Kailua vicinity of Kailua,
2 over the mountain, cutting up to Waikii and Waimea
3 defined in the 19th century as being the significant
4 route of access for the native families. Of course, that
5 access is no longer available today.

6 One other issue that's been raised in all the
7 history reviews that I've done, is how you clean up the
8 land once you're done. We don't have a good track record
9 of that. Makua, Kahanahaiki, Waikane, the Kahoolawe
10 issues. What will happen at Waikoloa where ordnance is
11 still being found. And not too long ago, as I recall it,
12 maybe the most recent, just in around 1971, someone who
13 was killed by unexploded ordnance from when the Army was
14 using Waikoloa in World War II. So leftover from that --
15 how will Pohakuloa be cleaned up in future also.

16 So these are issues that I'm hearing in the
17 community as an ethnographer. And I just wanted to share
18 some of these thoughts with you.

19 Thank you for the time in coming. And I've seen
20 archaeologists here who I hope is one of the people
21 working with you, because I trust their integrity and
22 their ability to not just skim the surface.

23 Thank you. Aloha (farewell).

24 (Applause)

25 MS. LEE: Brian Bott followed by Lizika Lam.

1 MR. BOTT: Aloha, a hui hou (greetings,
2 until we meet again) -- or I am haole, I should say,
3 howzit.

4 I'm going to speak conditionally in support of
5 the expansion. And I want to thank the chair and the
6 Army for giving me the freedom to come up here and agree
7 or disagree if I wanted to do that. My eyes weren't so
8 bad, I might even thought I saw a musket over there
9 someplace. I want to be thankful for that.

10 Some of the reasons that I support the expansion.
11 I accept the fact that our Armed Forces have to train to
12 keep their proficiently levels up, they're here or deploy
13 abroad someplace. I understand live training is very
14 dangerous, noisy, requires a lot of space. Although we
15 have certainly legitimate concerns with the community
16 about the noise levels in the Pohakuloa area, certainly,
17 further removed from concentration of the population than
18 most other places available in the major Hawaiian
19 Islands.

20 I have, as a taxpayer, a major financial
21 incentive to make sure these people are safe. I have a
22 lot of money invested in their training and their
23 equipment. And if they don't train, my investment is not
24 going to be kept safe. I have a worry about that. It's
25 more cost effective, certainly, to rebuild this facility

1 than it is to move it elsewhere. I don't know of any
2 other obvious place to move the training that offers the
3 space required for artillery, air operations, large
4 movements of ground troops, and offers the benefit of
5 being able to train in high altitude and cold weather.

6 I had to work up on top of the mountain, and I
7 had a headache all day, every day up on top of the hill,
8 my observatory job. Certainly, slowed me down
9 enormously.

10 There's additional benefits to the expeditionary
11 forces deploying offshore or deploying at the Kawaihae
12 site, having to move inshore, that helps us enormously.

13 The Big Island's population would get
14 construction and operations employment during this. That
15 would certainly help our economy, our tax revenues would
16 rise. And we can use that money to help build fire
17 stations and police stations, libraries, and hospitals.

18 The expansion of the Army base, I believe, would
19 add additional resources on islands so the next time we
20 have a major natural disaster, certainly, the county
21 would be better able to respond. The helicopters that
22 might be there sometimes, certainly, a good way to move
23 in a generator or a portable desalinization plant to a
24 hospital that's cut off the grid.

25 I mentioned that there was a conditional support,

1 One of the conditions that I'd like to see studied,
2 certainly, or to set space within the expanded area for a
3 very large county-owned solid waste disposal area. We're
4 certainly having a lot of public debate about how to do
5 that. At the moment, the Saddle Road realignment we're
6 discussing, may, not necessarily will, but may make
7 moving waste to such a facility cost effective.

8 The facility could have possibly as an integral
9 component, a waste-to-energy plant, which could assist in
10 our island's electrical supply problems. The Army could
11 become a partner in that sort of a facility, and reduce
12 need for additional HELCO burden. We're certainly having
13 a huge controversy about the plant HELCO's trying to put
14 on line just mauka (inland) of the Kona Airport.

15 I know the base already uses solar cells for
16 electrical generation. I wouldn't be surprised if they
17 have some solar water heating capability in place. In
18 that region, windy as that area is, you could get lots of
19 wind energy generation. All this would feed back into
20 the HELCO grid.

21 All of this to occur in Pohakuloa, would
22 certainly remove it from the public eye. We have a lot
23 of controversy over doubts about where to put HELCO's
24 electrical plant. There aren't a whole lot of people.
25 There are a lot of cultural sites, but not a whole lot of

1 people live up there.

2 Another potential benefit to us as local
3 taxpayers is the cost of the Saddle Road realignment
4 could be shifted -- a portion of it anyway -- to the
5 federal budget. It still comes out of my pocket, but it
6 doesn't come out of my state excise tax or my local
7 property tax. The federal budget is -- some of us are
8 aware it comes disproportionately from large areas of
9 concentrated population. But I have no problem with
10 people in L.A. or New York paying a big portion to fix
11 that highway.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AMARAL: Thank you very much. I'm
15 having a hard time reading the last -- name -- is it
16 Lizika.

17 MS. LAM: Lizika Lam.

18 MS. AMARAL: Thank you.

19 MS. LAM: Hi, I'm Lizika Lam. I don't think
20 I'll be quite as philosophical as the previous two
21 speakers. I don't live in a concentrated population
22 area. I live up at Waikii Ranch, up on the Saddle Road.
23 And I think we, possibly more than many of the people
24 that live on this island, would be impacted by this
25 expansion.

1 My concerns are personal since I drive that road
2 every day, once, twice, sometimes even three times a day.
3 The military is proposing to expand by fifty percent, the
4 presence of Pohakuloa; and moving the convoys onto -- I
5 mean gravel -- like the tank road, which is wonderful
6 because that would control some of the dust and erosion
7 that we see when they do have their maneuvers.

8 However, when an increase of 50 percent on the
9 Saddle Road is figured in, that means 50 percent more
10 water trucks are driving up and down that road. Now I
11 don't know how many of you travel that road very much.
12 However, it's -- I mean I would say 75 percent of the
13 time it's full of potholes. The sides are completely un-
14 drivable. And when you're going up, you're either stuck
15 behind a truck, or when you're coming down, and they have
16 no load, they're coming down -- they're screaming down
17 the road over on the other side of the yellow line, and I
18 have numerous times been forced off the side of the road.

19 Waikii is a community, a growing community of
20 young families, retirees from many places. And we value
21 our safety, and we value the peace that we have up there.
22 We've elected to live there.

23 Recently, during these last maneuvers, I was out
24 in my yard just working, and -- I don't know if it was
25 live munitions or blank munitions, but I really felt

1 sorry for the people in Afghanistan, because I really
2 felt that, you know, here it was, you know, you could
3 hear it right there. So that was why I asked the
4 question about the blanks versus the live munitions.

5 Let's see, the last question I have is if there
6 are going to be, you know, all of these new people living
7 here, I'm really curious about the impact that it would
8 have on our infrastructure in Waimea, and our local
9 public schools. If it would only be, you know, soldiers
10 and the military coming over on these maneuvers, or else
11 -- or would people be relocating, and if we would have a
12 significant impact on our local public schools, because
13 they are tremendously overcrowded right now. I tutor in
14 one of them. And I tutor in a portable trailer, and
15 there is no more room. And this is something that I
16 think that the government really has to look into also,
17 if they're going to be moving a lot of families over
18 here.

19 So those are my comments. And thank you very
20 much for allowing me the opportunity.

21 MS. AMARAL: Thank you very much. Art
22 Wright, followed by David Bigelow. Art Wright.

23 REV. WRIGHT: Good afternoon everyone -- or
24 should I say this evening. Aloha (greetings). I'm
25 pastor of Waikoloa Lutheran Church in the makai or the

1 down side of Pohakuloa. And I served as an Army chaplain
2 for a career. I was in many military outfits, infantry,
3 artillery, engineers, aviation, you name it, I was there.

4 And I saw firsthand the importance of military
5 supremacy and superiority over a common enemy. I think
6 if anyone could be objective in wanting to defend our
7 American way of life, which protects my freedom to preach
8 the gospel freely, unbashably, unashamably, it would be
9 me who values the protection of our Constitution and Bill
10 of Rights.

11 And I say we're fifty states. And I found out
12 that the military is not honored in peace time, but it is
13 highly valued when the flag goes up, or the situation
14 becomes dangerous. And I want to say right now, I
15 believe we live in a very dangerous world. And we really
16 need to get behind National Defense to protect our nation
17 and our values and our way of life.

18 I read in the "Honolulu Advertiser" today, and
19 this is what led me to get up today with my random
20 thoughts. I'm not reading from anything. This is coming
21 from my heart. I read of a man who said that the Army is
22 of Satan. I don't believe that. I believe that our
23 United States is made up of guardian angels, not bad
24 angels, good angels. I ought to know. I served in it.

25 And if you're worried about environmental impact

1 concerns, let's not be us against them. Let's get
2 together.

3 We might be in a world war, unknown right now to
4 us. We might be. Who knows what a day can bring? I was
5 there, thirteen-year-old boy on December 7th in
6 California. And I saw a war where people tightened their
7 belts; they went into rationing; they mobilized into
8 great defensive effort; and we repelled the Axis Powers;
9 and we kept our way of life. Who knows if we're not in a
10 war like that with terrorism today. It's not us
11 environmentalists against the Army. It's let's do it
12 better.

13 You know, I served two tours in Germany and two
14 tours in Vietnam. And wherever we left a place, we
15 policed it up; we left it better, and it was nicer. I
16 served in Germany where we had training centers like
17 Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Wildflecken. And if you want to
18 talk about scrupulous environmentalists, they're Germans.
19 They're the cleanest people on earth, and we've been able
20 to co-exist there, and get along and train, and make the
21 world a safer place.

22 I want to say today, let's not bash the military.
23 Let's cooperate. Let's not be us against them. I can
24 say that first hand. I was a noncombatant. I served
25 alongside the troopers. And I valued these people. And

1 I believe our military, all the services, the seven
2 uniformed services, are America's best. Believe it. And
3 this 25th Infantry Division, the Taro Leaf Division, it
4 goes back a long way in history. It's a fine outfit.
5 They have pride in their insignia, their shoulder pads.
6 And I'm going to tell you right now, as a pastor in
7 Waikoloa, I would welcome the 25th Infantry in my
8 neighborhood just because I think that we need military
9 protection.

10 It's set up in our Constitution that we are to
11 defend ourselves against enemies, foreign and domestic.

12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AMARAL: Thank you. David Bigelow,
15 followed by Ron Hochuli.

16 MR. BIGELOW: Good afternoon. I'm Dave
17 Bigelow, and I'm a resident of Waikii Ranch. I'm here as
18 an individual.

19 Our community does have a number of concerns
20 about the acquisition by the Army. And our -- Ron
21 Hochuli, our president of our community association will
22 be the next speaker, and he'll be addressing more of
23 those concerns.

24 My primary concern that I would like to see in
25 the environmental impact statement is a thorough

1 evaluation of wind erosion and dust. This -- and I'm
2 speaking of the Keamuku proposed 23,000 acres that's now
3 owned by the Parker Ranch.

4 I believe from everything that I've seen living
5 in this area, and working in this area, and traveling
6 this area, that the proposed use of the Keamuku area as a
7 maneuver area will result in a major loss of top soil and
8 wind erosion. And the reason I say this is because over
9 the past several years, actually, it's been about eight
10 years now, when Waikii Ranch went from the development
11 stage to the -- it was taken over by the homeowners, we
12 as a group realized that we had a -- we were living in a
13 very beautiful, but fragile area. It wasn't clearly not
14 as we saw from the external, that this place was --
15 needed care and needed a lot of thought of how we used
16 it, and how we lived there.

17 The association -- and I was a part of this -- we
18 collaborated with Dr. Burton Smith from the University of
19 Hawaii Extension Service in putting together a document,
20 on the use of the ranch, called the "Agricultural Rules
21 and Guidelines." And speaking of Dr. Smith, he's now
22 retired, but he's a recognized expert in West Hawaii's
23 soil and pasture management. And he was a great help in
24 preparing this document.

25 And there were many times that we went back and

1 forth to talk to Dr. Smith with drafts and what we had
2 written. And I'd like to quote just one little paragraph
3 from our -- from the introduction to those guidelines.
4 I'll read it.

5 "The most important part of the preservation
6 process is to protect top soil. The soil on the ranch is
7 unique. And as an aside, the soil of the ranch in the
8 entire Waikii section of Parker Ranch and the Keamuku
9 section is virtually identical. The soil type is Waimea
10 series of volcanic ash. It's a very fine powder-like
11 volcanic pumice, with almost none of the binding agents,
12 for instance, clay, that are part of most other soils.
13 The dry weight of a cubic foot of this soil is about one-
14 half that of other soils in Hawaii. Because of the lack
15 of binding agents, compaction can only be maintained by
16 moisture or more importantly, vegetation growing in the
17 soil. When compaction is broken, and the soil is dry, it
18 becomes a fluffy talcum powder-like dust that is easily
19 blown away." That's the end the quotation.

20 The rainfall in the Keamuku section of Parker
21 Ranch is -- roughly it varies with elevation, but it's
22 roughly fifteen inches a year or less. So moisture
23 compaction of the soil is minimum.

24 The kikuye grass sod is the primary vegetation
25 that compacts the soil. And when this sod is broken by

1 fire or mechanical means, and by mechanical means, I mean
2 overgrazing or vehicular traffic, the top soil is exposed
3 and blows away. Once the original top soil erodes, it
4 can take over fifty years until new growth can sustain
5 itself. And that's directly from Dr. Smith.

6 In June of 1999, approximately a thousand acres
7 of Parker Ranch adjacent to Waikii Ranch burned in a
8 range fire. I had some rather graphic videos of that,
9 but I wasn't able to present them here tonight.

10 The loss of sod exposed the top soil. They were
11 -- for a period of several months afterwards, there were
12 a number of dust storms, and I think many of you people
13 living in Waimea and Waikoloa probably remember that.

14 The resulting dust storms damaged three homes.
15 The fine dust infiltrated almost to the point that the
16 owners had to move out. Thousands of dollars of damage
17 was done, and re-growth or vegetation in that area has
18 been very slow, and mostly consist of undesirable alien
19 species.

20 And it's my belief that the Army use of Keamuku
21 will substantially raise the risk of range fires, and
22 probably even worse, over time, the vehicular traffic
23 generated by military training on this fragile land will
24 result in a major loss of topsoil, and I believe the
25 resulting dust storms will spread over West Hawaii.

1 For these reasons, I believe the Army use of the
2 Keamuku lands for training should not be allowed. It is
3 environmentally unsound and have a major negative impact
4 on West Hawaii.

5 And as an aside, I realize that standing here, I
6 may appear to be anti-Army, which is not the case. I'm
7 an ex-military officer, and I saw combat in Vietnam. And
8 I'm very proud of military action -- I'm just living in
9 this area and seen that -- how unique it is. I believe
10 that the damage to the land by this proposed use of the
11 area will be irrevocable.

12 And we thank you for letting me share these
13 thoughts with you. Thank you very much.

14 MS. LEE: Mr. Ron Hochuli will be followed
15 by Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald.

16 MR. HOCHULI: Good evening. I'm here as
17 personally, but also primarily as the president of the
18 Waikii Homeowners Association.

19 We have had a number of discussions with Colonel
20 Schmitz -- like around two discussions with Colonel
21 Schmitz as well briefings by General Dubik and asked him
22 - to understand what's going on.

23 Well, the feeling at the homeowners association
24 of Waikii Ranch will be -- I'm going to be addressing,
25 really, the purchase of the Keamuku site. And will be

1 the -- our Waikii Ranch -- will be the only contiguous
2 property to the proposed expansion of the Pohakuloa. So
3 it's important to us.

4 I'm the sixth speaker. And there's been four of
5 us who's really involved in Waikii Ranch. Kepa is the
6 ethnographer who Waikii has hired to do a study of the
7 Keamuku, Waikii area. And we've hired him about a year
8 ago. And we started seriously working with Kepa in the
9 last several months. So it's prior to even knowing
10 anything about the Army's plans. So you can see by four
11 out of six people, there are concerns about this area.
12 And it's my job today just to raise the issues that we're
13 concerned about.

14 But before even saying that, identifying those
15 issues, I would want to say publicly that the homeowners
16 association and myself as president, are very interested
17 in working with the Army. We want to cooperate and
18 contribute just as much as we can in time, energy, ideas.
19 And we hope that we will be used in and be part of the
20 ongoing study.

21 Obviously, I'm not speaking that we're in support
22 or not in support of the purchase of Keamuku, but we just
23 want to be sure that, you know, the concerns are
24 addressed as well as they can be.

25 The concerns -- the first one you heard in some

1 depth is about the erosion and dust that could affect not
2 only our property, but all of West Hawaii. You can see
3 the dust storms coming down, blowing towards other parts
4 of the island, not just into our area. So we're
5 concerned about the erosion, dust, not only for
6 ourselves, but also for our fragile environment.

7 We're also concerned, certainly, about the noise.
8 We're concerned about the maneuvering in the Keamuku
9 area, with as I think, over eight hundred vehicles that
10 could be maneuvering in that area, it would be -- there
11 could be quite a large amount of noise. It could be
12 support helicopters, and we're concerned about that.
13 Also, the flight patterns of any of the new proposed
14 aircraft coming into Pohakuloa.

15 We're obviously concerned about safety for our
16 families. In talking to General Dubik he -- that was a
17 concern of his, and we're hoping that the Army, as
18 they're looking at the safety, fire safety, primarily, is
19 that there be some type of buffer around Waikii Ranch,
20 green buffer, that in the past -- in the last fire Dave
21 Bigelow referred to in 1999, saved the house. It burned
22 around it, but didn't cross the green area that he had
23 watered around his property. It encircled his property.
24 He got out safely, but the green lawns that, obviously,
25 he was watering, saved the property. So we're concerned

1 about the safety.

2 There's -- the final issue is a selfish issue,
3 but it's an economic issue. You know, there are real
4 estate transactions happening all the time up in this
5 area. And I don't think there's anything that you can
6 really do about that. It's because it's really an
7 uncertainty. There is uncertainty about, "Well, I don't
8 know that I would really want to purchase property in
9 Waikii, because, you know, the noise or the dust, you
10 know, those are problems." And they come up when people
11 are considering the purchase of property.

12 So -- but it is something that we're really aware
13 of, and especially as families change and they try to
14 move away in selling property that they've invested in,
15 as well as people just making a decision about moving up
16 to that area.

17 So again, I think the major thought I'd like to
18 leave is that we are ready, willing, and able to work
19 with the Army and look forward to contributing our, I
20 guess -- forming a partnership of working through these
21 issues. Hopefully, coming to an agreement that we've
22 solved the problems or the issues that we have
23 identified.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause)

1 MS. LEE: Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, who will
2 be followed by Mr. Roger Harris.

3 MR. FITZGERALD: Good evening. I want to
4 take this opportunity to thank the Army for allowing us
5 to comment on this proposed EIS, and also apologize to
6 all of you, as I'm not from Waikii Ranch. However, I've
7 been trying to talk my wife into moving up there for
8 years. And I don't know if I'll be successful now.

9 I'm speaking on behalf of the Paniolo
10 Preservation Society of which I'm one of the board
11 members. And our purview encompasses much of the lands
12 that we speak of in the Keamuku section.

13 The Statewide Paniolo Preservation Society was
14 formed in 1999 to preserve, interpret, and perpetuate the
15 history, traditions, and the heritage of the Hawaiian
16 cowboy. And as many of you probably already know those
17 traditions pre-date the American cowboy by over fifty
18 years.

19 Attached is a copy of our mission statement that
20 we have submitted this evening. And I would like to read
21 a few of the primary goals and aims of our association.

22 First is to educate the public and increase
23 public awareness and appreciation of the significance of
24 the paniolo, and the histories of Hawaii and the western
25 cowboy heritage of America, and the resources that

1 represent the living and ongoing paniolo heritage.

2 Secondly, our mission is to collect, preserve,
3 and interpret those artifacts in natural history that
4 represent the paniolo heritage, including without
5 limitations, saddlery, tack, gear, clothing, head gear,
6 art, photographs, ferns -- films, excuse me, books,
7 papers, reports, letters, trails, ahu (altars), line
8 cabins, stables, corrals, stone walls, traps, shipping
9 sites, flora, fauna, grasslands, and kipuka (vegetated
10 remainder areas encircled by a lava field). And as you
11 can hear by that description, much of our kuleana
12 (responsibility) does encompass the proposed
13 transformation of Pohakuloa.

14 Thirdly, our mission is to collect, preserve, and
15 interpret the living heritage of paniolo history,
16 including, without limitation of the language, oral
17 histories, skills, music, food, and storytelling as Kepa
18 is such an artist at.

19 Fourth, to increase public awareness and
20 appreciation for the paniolo role in the birth, growth,
21 and productivity of the livestock industry, and the sport
22 of rodeo historically and presently in the State of
23 Hawaii.

24 Fifth, to provide the financial resources to
25 achieve the mission and goals of the Paniolo Preservation

1 Society, via membership and fundraising.

2 And finally, to utilize resources to achieve the
3 mission and goals of the Paniolo Preservation Society by
4 operating within appropriate curatorial standards.

5 Having said that, I want to just state that the
6 society has access to many individuals, families,
7 ranches, and other organizations with historical
8 information relating to the specific regions addressed by
9 this federal EIS process. We offer you our assistance
10 with site identification and interpretation, and where
11 appropriate, preservation.

12 We do not oppose the transformation process, but
13 rather, see it as a means of preserving and protecting
14 the most significant paniolo sites, artifacts, trails,
15 corrals, etc. in this region. We look forward to working
16 with your archaeological and cultural research teams as
17 they identify and address appropriate mitigations.

18 Finally, just a quick comment on the specific
19 area of Keamuku. Those of you in this room may already
20 know this, however, the Keamuku section as they called
21 it, that 23,000 acres, was at one time a very significant
22 sheep station operated by and managed by a long-time
23 kama'aina (long-time residents or those born in a place)
24 family, the Greenwell family. And Rawley Greenwell,
25 who's a very significant part of Parker Ranch's history,

1 managed the Keamuku district for many years. And a great
2 deal of sheep roamed those hills for many years. And
3 there are many significant sites that represent that
4 period as well as prior periods, prehistoric periods in
5 that area which, indeed, bear preservation.

6 Having said that, again, I appreciate the
7 opportunity to address this audience this evening. And I
8 hope that there will be more comment following mine.

9 As an aside, professionally, I'm a car dealer,
10 and I'm not trying to sell you a car, however, I'm going
11 to warn you I've sold Parker Ranch many trucks to operate
12 the Keamuku district. And as Ron has mentioned, and Mr.
13 Bigelow has mentioned, that soil is death on vehicles,
14 because it is pumice, and it is light, and the least
15 disturbance will inhale it into your vehicles. So a lot
16 of thought needs to be given to that.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. LEE: Mr. Roger Harris. And let me, --
20 as you approach the podium, -- let me invite others who
21 wish to give comments and who haven't signed up to please
22 do so. There are sign-up cards out at the front desk.

23 MR. HARRIS: Hello, my name is Roger Harris.
24 I'm a resident of Waimea. I'm a city planner, planning
25 consultant at this point for Waikii Ranch Homeowners

1 Association, as well as Waikii Ranch, Phase 2, which is
2 the Pohakuloa side of Waikii Ranch of a little more than
3 a thousand acres that's planned to be gradually expanded
4 as another 72 lots. So I'm intimately familiar with the
5 infrastructure and all the planning issues that have gone
6 along with Waikii Ranch 1 and 2 for a long time.

7 I'm also a former chairman of the Waimea Design
8 Committee of the Waimea Community Association and dealt
9 with many regional planning issues. And I haven't heard
10 anybody else here from Waimea say that they're involved
11 in Waimea very intimately, interested in particularly the
12 tank road and the transportation from Kawaihae up through
13 the Keamuku area to Pohakuloa. So I'd like to offer
14 myself up as a resource person as this process goes on.

15 And, lastly, I'm on the board of directors of the
16 Pua Kailima O Kawaihae Cultural Surf Park, Inc., down at
17 Kawaihae adjacent to the LST ramp and the breakwater the
18 Corps of engineers built. And that I'd just like to say
19 that we're -- everybody down there is intimately
20 concerned and interested in a compatible relationship.

21 And I'd like to say that that relationship has
22 been very good. The surfers are getting along great with
23 the Army. And we'd like to continue that.

24 And the -- the other good relationship that I
25 personally experienced was on behalf of Waikii Ranch

1 Phase 1 and Phase 2. About a year ago we worked with the
2 federal government on the Saddle Road realignment and the
3 west -- the west alignment that goes down toward
4 Mamalahoa Highway. Happily there was an alignment
5 selected that was favorable to Waikii Ranch, and I think
6 favorable to all concerned, and actually a little more
7 cost effective to build.

8 So I'll be tuned in and please call me any time.
9 I'll be talking to many of you and look forward to a good
10 scoping planning process.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. LEE: Thank you. Mr. Dale Hoopai. He
13 will be followed by Josephine Keliipio.

14 DALE HOOPAI: Good evening, ladies and
15 gentlemen, Colonel Puttmann sir, Colonel Schmitz.

16 The reason why I'm here tonight, I've worked at
17 Pohakuloa for two years up there. Just retired from the
18 Marine Corps. I did a lot of my training up at
19 Pohakuloa. I support the Army, what they're trying to do
20 with their expansion up there. I've been on that trail,
21 tank trail. I've walked that trail twice from the bottom
22 of Kawaihae all the way up to the top of Pohakuloa. I
23 spent a lot of my training up there.

24 From what I saw of the Army up there for two
25 years right before I retired, I know they can take care

1 of their land up there including trying to support the
2 community also. All the troops that come up there for
3 training, we, when I was there, we used to take them out,
4 the individual schools, help out the schools and stuff
5 like that.

6 So what I'm saying is that with more people
7 coming up there to train for the Army, we can look at
8 them as far as supporting the community and trying to get
9 services from them to help the schools out there and
10 everything else. We helped out at Honokaa High School,
11 the Boy Scouts. We also helped out the Pahoa High School
12 out there, some of the natural land resources down in
13 Hilo. We supported all those things while I was up
14 there.

15 And if you haven't been up there they got their
16 own little thing going up there for environmental. They
17 support a lot of things out there. I enjoyed working
18 with the Army the whole time I was up there. I can't say
19 anything but good things about the Army. Yeah, we do
20 have our little ups and downs and everything else maybe
21 in some areas, but then overall 80 percent of the time,
22 or a hundred percent of the time, they support the
23 community whenever they can. Or whenever they're asked
24 to do something.

25 You get fires up there, they support them with

1 the water and everything else to help put out the fires
2 in those areas. I know that area pretty well. I've been
3 up and down that trail in four-bys and everything else.
4 And I think the area will support the Army in what
5 they're trying to do with their expansion up there.

6 I just want to give you guys a big thank you for
7 letting me speak on behalf of what I feel about the
8 servicemen, because I know the servicemen could use that
9 additional training area up there to support their
10 training. It's not only the Army, it's the Marines use
11 that area a lot. We're the ones that drive up the tank
12 trail the majority of the time. And that's going to
13 support the Army to try and accomplish their mission.

14 Thank you sir.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. LEE: Josephine Keliipio. And Cindy
17 Evans will follow Josephine.

18 MS. KELIPIO: Good evening. I'm from Kona.
19 Originally from Hilo. Grew up in Keaukaha, right next to
20 the airport, so I'm very familiar with the impacts of
21 your training because we lived on Krauss Avenue right
22 next to the airport. And those big fat airplanes that
23 carried in all those tanks, we heard them when they came
24 in for training when I was that high.

25 You know, when -- that was like decades ago. So,

1 and I've always since then been concerned about any kind
2 of governmental project that's going to impact the
3 quality of life for people that surround those -- these
4 types of facilities. Noise from your airplanes, your --
5 whatever you use in your Jeeps, trucks, what you're going
6 to -- what kind of roadways you're going to use and how
7 they're going to impact adjacent residential areas. Or
8 any adjacent area for that matter.

9 I also grew up in a military school and, to tell
10 you the truth, I don't have a really good feeling for the
11 military after I left there. And I still don't have a
12 very good feeling for the military. So I'm really not in
13 favor of it expanding very much on that mountain.

14 And when I looked at the map it kind of threw me
15 off, because the last time we spoke of Pohakuloa, well,
16 of that area, it had to do with the Saddle Road
17 realignment. And somehow I didn't see that section that
18 the military was talking about at that time of the Saddle
19 Road where they were going to buy that section from
20 Parker Ranch. Somehow that didn't seem to be mapped up
21 here. So that confuses me a bit because it seemed to be
22 left out of tonight's discussion.

23 The Saddle Road realignment also seemed to be
24 left out of tonight's discussion. That -- that really
25 threw me off. You guys are using the old road and not

1 even giving us an idea of where the new alignment is
2 going to come through your training area.

3 As I said before, I'm not really in favor of it,
4 of it expanding, or of the military even acquiring that
5 new site whatever, wherever it is up there in the
6 mountain. I'm not really elated about it.

7 I am concerned -- I'm glad that the woman
8 from Waikii brought up about the water situation with the
9 water trucks. That's a real -- those things are really
10 important, you know, to just the common traveler,
11 residents, tourists, you know, people coming between Hilo
12 and Kona that use that road regularly. That must be
13 pretty spooky to be driven off the road all the time by
14 your water trucks.

15 So, you know, that to me is pretty major, how
16 you're going to impact the infrastructure with not your
17 military vehicles but all those supporting types of
18 resources that impact that road.

19 And I think for now that's all I'm going to
20 comment on. I'll probably write more later.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. LEE: Cindy Evans, who will be followed
24 by Mr. Michael Martinez.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good evening, ladies

1 and gentlemen. I appreciate the opportunity to talk and
2 I'm going to -- my comments will be addressed to the Army
3 and to your consultant that's doing the environmental
4 impact statement.

5 I'm coming from my own experience, having written
6 environmental impact statements and had the opportunity
7 to review and recommend them to higher-ups, so I'm
8 assuming that you will work and recommend this to your
9 top brass as to what's going to happen here. So given my
10 background I want to say a couple things about
11 environmental impact statements.

12 I believe they're really, really critical to the
13 outcome of this project. And right now this meeting is
14 really instrumental. Because when you get to the draft
15 EIS part so much has already been put down on paper and a
16 lot of people have already made some decisions. So I
17 think commenting right now is really critical.

18 So given that what I hope to see in your
19 environmental impact statement is unreasonable as well as
20 reasonable alternatives. And what I mean by that is an
21 alternative may mean you don't -- you're not going to
22 build here, and why is that not an alternative? That way
23 people will see in writing your analysis and why you
24 think you really need to have it here.

25 The other thing is also I'm hoping in your EIS

1 you address things like impacts that you see on things
2 like noise, the dust, the things that people pointed out,
3 and how you plan on measuring those impacts; how you plan
4 on mitigating those impacts; how you plan on evaluating
5 those impacts; how you plan on possibly putting money in
6 an account so that you can deal with those impacts in the
7 future. Because some of those impacts you may not see in
8 the immediate now, you may see in 5, 10, 15 years out.
9 So what are you going to do to take care of those impacts
10 as they may come up? So I think that should be
11 addressed.

12 Let's see, the other thing is I believe that
13 there should be comment about the fact you are removing
14 this land from other uses in the future. Because in fact
15 this land is going to be purchased by the Army and it may
16 mean 10, 15, 20, 30 years from now, like someone pointed
17 out earlier in your presentation, this, the Army may
18 decide to use it in another way. So what it says to me
19 is once the Army gets this then in fact we've taken it
20 out of future use. So I think that needs to be
21 commented, because in the end this could change this
22 island and it could change that area for, who knows, a
23 hundred years, 200 years. We can't predict how far out.
24 But I think that could be addressed.

25 In terms of noise, I lived next to Fort Lewis,

1 about eight miles from Fort Lewis, and I have to say that
2 depending on the shells that you use, windows shook 15
3 miles away from Fort Lewis. And if you're doing the same
4 thing that they're doing when you have your, I know what
5 you call them, war games, in fact windows do shake. And
6 so noise is an issue.

7 And also helicopters -- helicopters do fly --
8 tend to fly pretty low over the land. And I know people
9 were upset about their animals. So I don't know if you
10 can address flight patterns and the height of helicopters
11 flying.

12 Oh, my last comment is on Kawaihae harbor. I
13 know that we've been talking about roads, but I think the
14 harbor could end up being majorly impacted, because it is
15 one of our highways. And what I hear is that you'll be
16 potentially shipping things, I think, from Oahu over
17 here. So it will have an impact on that harbor.

18 And I'm not sure the military has said what they
19 will do with recreational boating and with commercial
20 boating. So there may be a conflict there. I don't know
21 if you're going to have to build a separate pier to take
22 that or not. So I'd be interested in that.

23 So that's my comments.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause)

1 MS. LEE: Mr. Michael Evans asked to read
2 some questions into the record, so I'll do that after
3 your presentation.

4 MR. MARTINEZ: My name is Mike Martinez.
5 And I'm from Kailua-Kona. I've been here for about a
6 year and a half. I retired out of Texas.

7 And I'm in favor for them building up there on
8 the PTA. Back in 1980 when I was stationed on Oahu, we
9 trained up there almost every, well, maybe every three or
10 four months. And what I'm concerned about, though, when
11 they get up there they do protect all the sites that are
12 out there. I think that it's very important that we
13 protect the Hawaiian sites. My family is Hawaiian and my
14 wife's Hawaiian, so I firmly believe that those sites
15 need to be protected.

16 When I was training up there back in the early
17 '80s, our platoon sergeant took us out to the site before
18 we did any training and showed us where all these sites
19 were at, so that way we knew as soldiers when we were
20 doing our training where to not go to and to make sure
21 they were protected. We used to mark it with warning
22 tape, concertina wire, something just to keep everybody
23 out of there. I'm sure now the Army's got different ways
24 of doing it. But that's something we should look at.

25 As for the impact of the new soldiers coming into

1 the community area, I think we should embrace that
2 because, as one of the gentlemen was saying about the
3 soldiers going to the schools, the Army has a program
4 called Adopt-A-School. Those soldiers when they arrive
5 here will be able to adopt a school and help improve that
6 school. You have soldiers on their free time reading to
7 our children that are in the schools, showing them a few
8 different things of how to clean up the area. You take
9 them out and they do what we call police call, picking up
10 trash and all that stuff around the schools and
11 everything, to include the schools. It doesn't cost us
12 anything, the soldiers do it on their own free time. So
13 that's one thing for you to look at.

14 Also, as for the schools, when my family first
15 came here -- my kids go to Kona -- and when they found I
16 was military the schools were happy because when the
17 military children are in schools the state gets funding
18 from the federal government for military students in the
19 school. So that also helps out the schools.

20 Realistic training. I believe that the Army
21 needs to do the best they can with realistic training
22 because when our sons and daughters are out there
23 training, or out there fighting a war as they're doing
24 right now, if they don't get more realistic training
25 you're going to have more casualties than we've got right

1 now. And it's very important that they do the best they
2 can, but keep in mind the concerns of the people. Noise,
3 similar, the dust, I understand that.

4 And we all understand. But realistic training is
5 one of the priorities that we should keep and maintain.

6 Economic impact. The more soldiers we have here,
7 the more families we have here, the more the economy's
8 going to grow. Someone mentioned about Waimea. Well,
9 Waimea, I'm sure the businesses are going to be happy
10 because the soldiers come down they're going to be
11 spending money in Waimea. They're going to help the
12 economy grow. There's a radio -- or on the radio it says
13 buy local, the money stays here to help your local
14 businesses, something to that effect. Well, let's do
15 that. Let's help out our economy.

16 Like I said, I'm in support of the building, and
17 I hope it happens, but I'm also concerned about the
18 Hawaiian culture out there and I hope that they do train
19 the soldiers, which I'm sure they will. They've done it
20 before, so they can respect what's out there.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. LEE: And I was asked to read some
24 questions into the record. And I think I can get this
25 all right. I might have a little trouble at the end.

1 But, No. 1, who will be conducting the EIS? Is
2 the EIS contract fixed fee or cost plus?

3 No. 2, where specifically are the additional
4 lands the Army is looking at for training? How can we
5 comment if we don't know where these lands are?

6 No. 3, why is there so little information for PTA
7 and its surrounding environs? Again how can we comment
8 if the information is lacking?

9 No. 4, is the Bradshaw runway length scheduled to
10 increase to handle the C-17s? Is noise a problem?

11 No. 5, how will the VFR affect training schedules
12 given the fog conditions at PTA?

13 No. 6, will public hunting be permitted in the
14 additional areas?

15 No. 7, will aircraft be used in the additional
16 areas? What kinds of aircraft and how many? I think
17 that's the end of that one.

18 And, No. 8, I'm concerned that the movement of
19 animals and houses in surrounding areas will change our
20 game management areas. And the examples given are
21 Ka'ohe, Pu'uanahulu. Just those two. And that's it.

22 ANNELLE AMARAL: We have come to the end of
23 those, the list of people who have signed up to speak.
24 If any of you feel that you now have something that you
25 want to enter into the record we are open to that.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we get answers to
2 those questions?

3 ANNELLE AMARAL: Thank you. The question is
4 can we get answers to these questions? I think, and if
5 I'm incorrect, Colonel, please correct me, but these are
6 probably much more complex than you can just answer off
7 the top of your head and would have to be dealt with
8 later.

9 COL PUTMANN: Why don't we go through them
10 since we obviously have time, and at least try to field
11 some of the ones that were -- that were asked here. That
12 probably would deal with the clarification part.

13 I will highlight, though, that again what we
14 presented here earlier were proposals. The Keamuku
15 parcel was a proposal that we were looking at in the
16 very, very early stages of discussions. And its one
17 alternative.

18 MR. BORNE: The first question, who will be
19 conducting the EIS, the company? U.S. Army Hawaii has
20 enlisted the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
21 specifically the Honolulu Engineering District, and they
22 have put out a bid for a contract for many different
23 parts of the EIS. George Redpath, who's at the table
24 here, is the prime contractor of the drafting of the
25 environmental impact statement. The type of contract, I

1 believe that that may be better answered by Earl? Yeah.
2 It may be answered later, the type of contractor, because
3 we're just getting started.

4 The second question: Where specifically are the
5 additional lands the Army is looking at for training?
6 And comment where these lands are at. I believe Colonel
7 Puttmann addressed that. You know, originally we looked
8 at the Keamuku area. And we are looking for additional
9 training lands, but specifically that's why we are
10 holding meetings like this, to get help on where we may
11 be able to meet these same type of requirements.

12 COL PUTTMANN: The question No. 3 about why
13 is there so little information for PTA and its
14 surrounding environs, I'm not sure we can answer that
15 right here. I think we try at PTA to have open sessions
16 where we invite the community up there. And certainly
17 we'll do that again this year, if they want to come up,
18 and we'll take them out into the area to look at cultural
19 sites. And we try to demonstrate to the community what
20 we do in terms of environmental protection.

21 The Bradshaw runway, the length, is it scheduled
22 to be increased to handle C-17s. There's a possibility
23 as we go in and look at this that there will be some
24 slight modifications to it. We don't have those
25 specifics here. C-17s have at one time unloaded and

1 landed up there, as they've done a test landing, and
2 flown on. We'll get more information out to the
3 community on that.

4 The question of VFR affecting the training
5 schedule given the fact that they could have fog
6 conditions, that's something that we will have to study
7 very closely. Obviously there are many places in the
8 world where these aircraft would have to go in and would
9 not be able to fly to a very mature -- into a mature
10 area. So this is a training requirement for the Air
11 Force as well to be able to fly into different types of
12 airfields, certainly ensuring that they're safe. And
13 that would be our condition.

14 The public hunting in the additional areas, it's
15 something that we obviously have to look at and talk to a
16 whole bunch of different people. I know as a general
17 rule the Army always tries to work with those groups,
18 those hunting groups, but again it depends on the impact
19 it will have with the wider community.

20 Will aircraft be used in the additional areas?
21 And what kind of aircraft? The additional areas, I'm
22 assuming they're looking at the purchase of additional
23 areas. We talked about Keamuku was the first one that
24 we've started to look at. Again, as we develop that, we
25 do use helicopters in training currently. Now, whether

1 or not that's something that we would do in that area
2 it's certainly still open to analysis. We have
3 restricted many of our flight areas and many of our
4 training areas on Oahu in terms of the altitude that they
5 have to fly so that they -- to lessen the impact on the
6 community. And this is something that we would take into
7 consideration.

8 And, again, the last question had to do with the
9 animals and the surrounding areas, would it change the
10 game management? Clearly too early to tell at this
11 point, but again it would be something that we are
12 required to look at and analyze what is the impact that
13 we have on those areas and then we would do that.

14 MS. AMARAL: Thank you very much, Colonel
15 Puttmann. Yes?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could I comment on
17 one of the questions?

18 MS. AMARAL: Could you come to the
19 microphone because the stenographer can't hear you.

20 COURT REPORTER: I've got "Could I comment
21 on one of the questions," and I can't hear you after
22 that.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On the question of
24 making the runway VFR IFR capable -- can you hear me?

25 MS. AMARAL: Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. I notice
2 that sometimes the tables have a, I won't say aversion,
3 but --

4 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, but I can't hear
5 you clearly.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

7 COURT REPORTER: Well, I'd like to put on
8 the record every word you say.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, that's not
10 necessary. An inversion jump that inadvertently could --
11 aircraft making the runway IFR capable, which I would
12 certainly be in favor of, doesn't mean that you have to
13 have the lights turned on all the time. I believe Colonel
14 Schwartz, if I'm mispronouncing your name correctly?
15 Schmitz. I apologize. You've been up there for some
16 period of time? I may have spoken with you on the
17 telephone some time ago about some surplus charts that I
18 have that I dropped, aeronautical charts that I dropped
19 one off up there.

20 And I still have all the rest of them. I would
21 be strongly in favor of making the runway IFR capable.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. AMARAL: If there are no further
24 comments what we'd like to do is to bring this to a
25 close. We have asked Reverend Wright and he has

1 consented to do the closing pule (prayer).

2 Before he does that, a couple of comments I need
3 to make. One is certainly the refreshments are still
4 here, the displays are still here, the military personnel
5 are here. Please stay with us, talk a while, ask any
6 questions you may have. In -- oh, I'm sorry, and Colonel
7 Puttmann needs to make some closing comments.

8 While the Colonel is making his way up and before
9 Reverend Bright gets here also may I express to you, this
10 is something I don't usually do, but I want to thank you
11 all for the way you've treated one another. Certainly
12 there are opposing views here. I am touched by your
13 respect and the civility with which you acted this
14 evening. Thank you so much for that.

15 Colonel Puttmann?

16 COLONEL PUTTMANN: I'll go ahead and use the
17 microphone right here.

18 I'd just like to personally again thank everyone
19 for coming here tonight and echo what Annelle said, we
20 appreciate your patience with us. Some of the issues
21 that we're dealing with now are in the very early stages.
22 As we develop these different proposals, though, we will
23 share them with the community. But your written and oral
24 comments are taken into consideration as we prepare this
25 environmental impact statement.

1 This is just the beginning, as I've stated. We
2 take very seriously our roles and responsibilities in
3 regards to the environment. And again thank you for
4 coming here tonight. We will take written comments up to
5 the 30th of May.

6 MS. AMARAL: Thank you. And now Reverend
7 Wright, thank you for doing the closing pule (prayer).

8 REV. WRIGHT: Would you pray with me.

9 Lord, we are under your divine guidance, as
10 individuals and a nation. Our times are really in your
11 hands. You are our creator, our sustainer, our
12 protector. Everything is under your providence. We too
13 are in your providence. You've asked us to be stewards.
14 You gave us this creation to manage, to protect, and
15 guide. Help us to do it in a proper manner.

16 But you also made us stewards of freedom. In the
17 Bible, we hear that you shall know the truth and the
18 truth shall make you free. We are guarded and protected
19 by the truth of freedom in our nation. We are solid. We
20 don't have martyrs as murderers. Martyrs as we know them
21 have always died because they spoke the truth.

22 And we are engaged now in a war against terror.
23 And so, we want to be good stewards of truth, freedom,
24 and our land. And we want the best defense against
25 terror that we can possibly have.

