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**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP**  
**MILITARY LEASED LANDS**

April 7, 2026

Honorable Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor of the State of Hawai'i  
Executive Chambers  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Subject:** Request for Gubernatorial Support to Enable Coordinated, Complementary Engagement Between OHA and the United States Army on Military-Leased Lands

Aloha e Governor Green,

On behalf of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) Permitted Interaction Group on Military-Leased Lands, which includes a 14-member Technical Advisory Group, we respectfully write to request your support in enabling coordinated and complementary engagement between OHA and the United States Army concerning the future of military-leased Public Land Trust (PLT) lands in Hawai'i.

OHA formally requested a meeting with the Secretary of the Army in its February 26, 2026 letter to initiate early, structured dialogue regarding the impending expiration of Army leases beginning in 2029. In its response, the Department of the Army acknowledged OHA's constitutional role and fiduciary responsibilities but indicated its preference at this stage to coordinate discussions principally through your office and the Governor's Advisory Committee.

While we recognize the State's interest in maintaining a coordinated approach, OHA's constitutional and statutory responsibilities are independent of those of the Executive Branch. OHA shares with your Administration a common interest in ensuring that decisions regarding PLT lands are fully informed, legally sound, and grounded in Native Hawaiian trust responsibilities and the State's broader public trust obligations. In this context, direct and transparent engagement with federal decision-makers is integral to fulfilling OHA's foundational purpose and its continuing fiduciary obligations.

In carrying out its kuleana, OHA bears an independent duty to its beneficiaries with respect to PLT lands. Decisions regarding the future of these lands, particularly those involving continued federal military use, directly implicate that duty. OHA's constitutional role is strengthened through its direct participation alongside the State, contributing a perspective rooted in its unique constitutional mandate and fiduciary responsibilities to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

There is also clear historical precedent for this approach. In 1978, with the support of Governor George Ariyoshi, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana negotiating team engaged directly with the United States Navy regarding the future of Kaho'olawe. At that time, Native Hawaiians did not yet have a constitutionally recognized entity to represent their interests. Today, OHA fulfills that role on behalf of the State and its Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. That process ultimately led to the 1980 consent decree with the U.S. Navy, a historic milestone that set in motion the eventual return of Kaho'olawe to the people of Hawai'i.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your assistance in urging the Secretary of the Army, or his designee Lieutenant General Joel B. Vowell, to meet directly with OHA in a manner coordinated with your office, and alongside the State but not solely as part of the Governor's Advisory Committee. We offer this request in support, not in lieu, of the State's broader coordination efforts, with the shared goal of ensuring that all constitutionally recognized stakeholders are meaningfully included in the dialogue.

For clarity, OHA wishes to affirm that such engagement is intended to support a shared factual understanding, strengthen trust obligations, and enhance the State's overall negotiating position by ensuring that Native Hawaiian trust considerations are fully and accurately understood.

We remain committed to working in close partnership with your administration to ensure that decisions regarding these lands are lawful, transparent, and reflective of Hawai'i's constitutional obligations, Native Hawaiian rights, and the long-term public interest.

Mahalo for your consideration of this request. We stand ready to engage constructively and collaboratively as this process moves forward.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



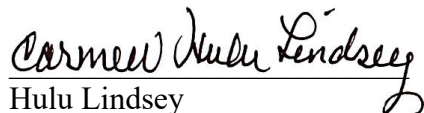
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Kaiali'i Kahele  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs



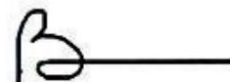
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Keoni Souza  
Vice Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
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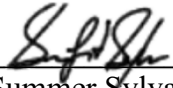
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Hulu Lindsey  
Chair Emerita, Board of Trustees  
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Brickwood Galuteria  
Trustee, At-Large, Board of Trustees  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs



Summer Sylva  
Interim Chief Administrator  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs



Leina'ala Ley  
Chief Advocate  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

*OHA's Military-Leased Lands Technical Advisory Group serves in a purely advisory and volunteer capacity, providing guidance and mana'o to inform decision-making and holds no authority to make or direct decisions on behalf of the Trustees or the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.*



Dr. Randall Kekoa Akee



Olin Kealoha Lagon



Dr. Kū Kahakalau



Mahina Tuteur



Sterling Wong



Dr. Kyle Kajihiro



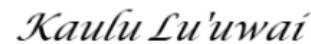
Dr. Jon Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio



Vicky Holt Takamine



Richard W. Pollack, Associate Justice (Ret.)



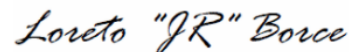
Kaulu Lu'uwai



Brigadier General (Ret.) Moses Kaoiwi



Rear Admiral (Ret.) Alma Grocki



Colonel (Ret.) Loreto "JR" Borce

2 Attachments:

1. OHA Letter to Secretary of the Army Daniel P. Driscoll, February 26, 2026
2. Letter from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment W. Jordan Gillis, March 18, 2026

cc:

The Honorable Brian Schatz, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono, United States Senate  
The Honorable Ed Case, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, United States House of Representatives  
Brooke Wilson, Chief of Staff to Governor of the State of Hawai'i Josh Green, M.D.