

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 90-118

RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A STATE PARK IN MAKUA VALLEY, OAHU.

WHEREAS, one of the objectives adopted in the General Plan of the City and County of Honolulu is to provide a wide range of recreational facilities and services that are readily available to all residents of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City as stated in its General Plan to encourage the State to develop and maintain a system of natural resource-based parks, such as beach, shoreline, and mountain parks; and

WHEREAS, Makua Valley is located on the northwest or leeward area of Oahu and contains approximately 4,921 acres of land, mostly unimproved, stretching from the mountains to the shoreline; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government owns about 170 acres in fee and 3,236 acres of ceded land in the mauka portion of the Valley, which is used by the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii owns about 1,515 acres of land in the makai portion of Makua Valley that is leased to the Federal Government for use by the U.S. Army, under General Lease Number S-3848, at a rental fee of \$1 per year for a period of 65 years, which lease expires on August 16, 2029; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of Public Law 88-233 (77 Stat. 472), passed by the U.S. Congress in 1963, if any of these ceded or public lands are determined to be surplus by the Federal Government, they shall be conveyed back to the State; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army operates a military training area and facilities on approximately 4,921 acres in Makua Valley known as the Makua Military Reservation (MMR); and

WHEREAS, the MMR is currently used by the U.S. Army as a live-fire maneuver range for company-size units, an aerial gunnery range for helicopters, a demolition training area, and a hazardous waste treatment site for the disposal of explosive ordnance; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980's the U.S. Army completed an upgrade of the facilities in the MMR and built new facilities to support the Company Combined Arms Assault Course (CCAAC), which development required the clearing of all unexploded surface ordnance prior to construction to ensure minimal risk to personnel; and

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WHEREAS, the Council takes note of the fact that several operations to clear certain areas of unexploded ordnance have been conducted in the past to make areas of the Valley safe for human use, such as, deduoding operations in (1) 1950 of about 1,200 acres from the seashore inland for 1,000 yards, (2) June 1963 of a corridor for the extension of Farrington Highway, and (3) 1985 for construction of the CCAAC facilities, and that the U.S. Army has taken steps in the last few years to limit the firing in order to reduce or eliminate the incidence of unexploded ordnance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army periodically reviews its training requirements and based on these needs has in recent years returned over 800 acres of land, including land at Yokohama Beach (Keawaula) and other lands encumbered under Lease Number S-3848, to the State; and

WHEREAS, the State has a long-range Master Plan to develop park areas from Dillingham Airfield to the Makua Caves, including the Kaena Point State Park and the Makua Beach Park, as one continuous part of the State park system; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Honolulu finds that there is an increasing need for additional parks and recreation areas on Oahu, particularly in the leeward portion of the island, to meet the recreational needs of both the current and future populations; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that because of the limited supply of land on Oahu suitable for recreational use and the pressures to develop such lands, there is an urgent need to plan for the time when properties, which are presently leased or ceded to the Federal Government, may be returned to State or City use and to take such steps now as are necessary and prudent to prepare for that eventuality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also finds that Makua Valley offers a unique opportunity to develop park and recreational uses, that could preserve the Valley's ecosystem and the 20 historical/archeological sites that have been identified in the Valley so far; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that the requirements of the U.S. Army for use of the MMR could change significantly by the year 2029 when the lease for the makai portion of the Valley expires; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the State of Hawaii be urged to study the feasibility of establishing a state park on the approximately 1,515 acres of land owned by the State and leased to the U.S. Army in Makua Valley, and to prepare a plan for development of such a park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii notify the Federal Government, in particular the Secretary of the Army, that the State is considering development of a park in Makua Valley and may decide not to renew the current land lease, which permits Army use of makai areas of the Valley, when it expires in 2029, or may seek the early termination of all or part of that lease; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is urged to request that the United States Army prepare a Master Plan for the Restoration of Makua Valley to its natural condition, outlining the steps to be taken to remove all hazardous ordnance and other impediments resulting from the use of the Valley by the Army, to enable the safe utilization of the Valley as a public park, which study should include an estimate of the costs and length of time necessary to accomplish those actions; and

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FOR REFERENCE ONLY
DO NOT REMOVE

No. 93-74

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE STATE ACT ON AND RESPOND TO RESOLUTION 90-118, RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A STATE PARK IN MAKUA VALLEY, OAHU.

WHEREAS, on April 25, 1990, the Council of the City and County of Honolulu adopted Resolution 90-118, attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and by reference made a part hereof, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A STATE PARK IN MAKUA VALLEY, OAHU";

and

WHEREAS, in Resolution 90-118, the Council urged the State of Hawaii to:

- (1) Study the feasibility of establishing a state park on approximately 1,515 acres of land owned by the State and leased to the U.S. Army in Makua Valley, and to prepare a plan for development of such a park;
- (2) Notify the federal government, in particular the Secretary of the Army, that the State is considering development of a park in Makua Valley and may decide not to renew General Lease No. S-3848, by which the State permits Army use of makai areas of the Valley, until the expiration of the lease in 2029, or may seek the early termination of all or part of that lease; and
- (3) Request that the United States Army prepare a Master Plan for the restoration of Makua Valley to its natural condition, outlining the steps to be taken to remove all hazardous ordnance and other impediments resulting from the use of the Valley by the Army, to enable the safe utilization of the Valley as a public park, which study should include an estimate of the costs and length of time necessary to accomplish those actions;

and

WHEREAS, to date, that State appears to have neither acted on nor otherwise responded to Resolution 90-118, thus undermining rational parks planning efforts to prepare for the time when properties, which are presently leased or ceded to the federal government, may be returned to State or City use; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it respectfully request, and does hereby so request, a timely and appropriate action on and response to Resolution 90-118, adopted by the Council on April 25, 1990,

