

Why We Need to End RIMPAC



What is RIMPAC?

RIMPAC is the largest naval exercise in history. It takes place every two years in and around Hawai'i. This year, RIMPAC is scheduled for **June 26th to August 1, 2024**. 22 countries will participate.

Why is RIMPAC harmful?

Colonial Violence: Prior to a 1893 invasion and subsequent occupation by the United States, Hawai'i was a peaceful, neutral country that served as a hub of peace for the Pacific and the world. In fact, the concept of neutrality was largely pioneered by the Hawaiian Kingdom. Kanaka Maoli have been diligently appealing to the US, UN and other bodies for a peaceful return of our independent, neutral country for over a century. **Destructive militarization of Hawai'i is an unacceptable act of colonial violence that needs to stop.** RIMPAC also violates the important international concept of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) by Indigenous Peoples. **Kanaka Maoli do not consent to RIMPAC, and never will.**

Environmental destruction: RIMPAC exercises include extreme impacts to ocean health, destructive activities such as the killing of whales, dolphins, sharks and other marine life sacred to Kanaka Maoli, the bombing and sinking of toxic decommissioned vessels, and amphibious assaults in turtle nesting grounds, amongst many other harmful activities. Sacred areas are bombed, shelled and invaded. Tens of millions of gallons of fossil fuels are used for these war games; the climate impact is severe. Biofuels used in RIMPAC are taken away from community circulation, so they do not actually offset anything.

Human Impact: 25,000 sailors on an island that does not want them means an increased risk of fights and violence, increased sex trafficking, and cumulative impacts to Kanaka Maoli chronic health problems (including extreme rates of heart disease, cancers, diabetes, depression and much more) that have been correlated with ongoing US occupation and militarization. It also means demand on our water table, which is already in a state of crisis due to military fuel spills.

There is also a global impact, via war. Israel will be bombing Hawai'i this summer, as it is bombing Gaza. **Hawai'i stands in peaceful solidarity with Palestine!**

What Are the Solutions?

End RIMPAC now. The time in human history for massive Earth-destructive war games is over. World superpowers should be gathering to clean up the mess they have made, not to make more of it. De-fund this oceanic horror and work together, under Indigenous leadership, to heal all of the damage that has been done to our beloved Mother Earth.

Liberate Hawai'i and support peaceful restoration of Independence. When our Queen was violently deposed in 1893 (for proposing a Constitution that would have given voting rights to impoverished Kanaka Maoli and Asian laborers), she gave a clear directive to her people: Onipa'a (move together in a steadfast way); do not fight back with violence, but never give up. Kanaka Maoli have been appealing to the "honest Americans" for many decades, for full restoration of our country. This is the **ONLY** way to peace in Hawai'i, and in the world. A free, neutral, Indigenous-led Hawai'i would be a shining beacon of peace in the Pacific, as it was in 1893, as opposed to a toxic parking lot for war and continued rape and pillage of our lands and people.

Learn More:

Ho'opae Pono Peace Project
<https://www.eapono.org>,
<https://stoprmpac.wixsite.com/stoprmpac>

Hawai'i Peace and Justice -
<https://hawaiipeaceandjustice.org>

Cancel RIMPAC petition (with links):
<https://diy.rootsaction.org/petitions/cancel-largest-naval-war-maneuvers-dangerous-rimpac-2022>

MILITARY LEASE RENEWALS

an act of colonial violence in Hawai'i



Pōhakuloa: What is going on?

Lands belonging to the Kingdom of Hawai'i (improperly referred to as "ceded" lands) that were seized during US takeover of Hawai'i, have been leased to the United States military, who has bombed and polluted them extensively, continually expanding their area of impact. The US Army currently has a proposal to continue to occupy 22,750 acres of leased State land at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) for an undetermined amount of time, in addition to 84,057 of Hawaiian land that was stolen via an Executive Order in 1964. **Kanaka Maoli have never consented to any of this, and do not consent now.** This is one of many military lease renewals that will be under very serious contention in the next few years.

What is the opposition to lease renewals?

Land Theft: Prior to a 1893 invasion and subsequent occupation by the United States, Hawai'i was a peaceful, neutral, fully independent country. **The people of the Hawaiian Kingdom have never consented to US rule,** and Kanaka Maoli have increasingly, strongly opposed continued US occupation. The lands in question legally belong to Hawai'i as an independent country, as there was never a treaty with the Kingdom that was illegally deposed, nor any legal reason for the invasion or taking of its lands. **It is important not to continue colonial land theft against the wishes of the rightful people of the lands in question.** This is an unacceptable act of military aggression that must stop immediately.

Destructive militarization of Hawai'i is an unacceptable act of colonial violence that needs to stop. Forcible lease renewals also violate the important international concept of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) by Indigenous Peoples. **Kanaka Maoli do not consent to military lease renewals at Pōhakuloa, or anywhere else.**

Environmental destruction: From KAHEA:

For decades, the Army has been contaminating Pōhakuloa lands with hazardous contaminants that keep accumulating. Their current lease does not require full clean up if there is no "technical and economic capability" and only if "expenditure for removal would not exceed the fair market value of the land." The EIS never discloses the Army's technical and economic capability nor the fair market value of the land and therefore the extent to which these lands can never be cleaned up. Continued occupation will continue to kill native wildlife. Calling its plans a "real estate" action, the Army says "ongoing activities would remain the same." Native bird researchers pointed out six species of native birds have disappeared from Pōhakuloa while the Army has occupied these lands. In response, the Army lists "management measures" developed since 2003. These measures are clearly not working. The Army's military activities cause fires that have burned through thousands of acres of listed plant habitat and subject native fauna to chronic stress. Yet, the EIS says wildlife can be "habituated" to noise and concludes, with **no** evidence, that this is ok.

Climate Impacts:

Militaries are notorious for not reporting greenhouse gas emissions. The Army at Pōhakuloa admits that their EIS does not include an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from their occupation, stating "there are no data inputs reasonably available to support such calculations for a real estate transaction such as the Proposed Action." GHG emission studies are regularly submitted as part of EISs and other processes. The Army just does not want to own up to its impacts.

Destructive Militarization: Pōhakuloa is bombed, shelled, burned and otherwise harmed as part of RIMPAC, the world's largest and most destructive . This must stop. Militarization also threatens Hawai'i as a "First Strike" community continually endangered by the presence and international aggression of the US military. We could all die in a nuclear attack, and this is not ok.

Learn More:

Ho'opae Pono Peace Project
<https://www.eapono.org>,

KAHEA (Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance)
<http://www.kahea.org>.

Hawai'i Peace and Justice -
<https://hawaiipeaceandjustice.org>

Petition: Stop Pohakuloa Lease Renewal:
<https://diy.rootsaction.org/petitions/do-not-extend-1-lease-on-27-000-acres-of-hawai-i-state-lands-in-pohakuloa-training-area>