

## **U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii (USAG-HI) Environmental Management Program**

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The vision of the USAG-HI is to establish itself as a leader in ecosystem management. The ecosystem management program on Oahu is a commitment to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii and comply with applicable laws and regulations while improving the Army's capability to conduct training and maintain military readiness. The Ecosystem Management Plan Report (USAG-HI, 1998) presents the underlying philosophy and actions proposed for ecosystem management on Oahu during 1997 through 2001. The current Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Oahu installations builds on that effort and updates the goals and objectives for management activities and resource areas based on past accomplishments, updated scientific information, monitoring, and adaptive management following initial efforts. Maintaining functioning ecosystems ultimately supports sustainable training since ecosystems that lose key ecological functions become degraded and loss of training realism follows. Ecosystem management therefore directly supports the Sikes Act requirement that there be "no net loss" in the capability of training lands to support the military mission.

The Army manages six major training subinstallations on the Island of Oahu: Dillingham Military Reservation (DMR), Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa Training Area (KLOA), Makua Military Reservation (MMR), Schofield Barracks Military Reservation (SBMR), and Schofield Barracks East Range (SBER). Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), on the Big Island is also managed by USAG-HI. All told, the Army manages over 150,000 acres of training lands in Hawaii.

A high priority is placed on management of threatened and endangered species (TES) on Army lands: 58 plants, 10 endangered Oahu Tree Snails, a bat and two birds. TES management on Army lands is by the Conservation/Restoration Branch of the Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works. Major threats to TES and native ecosystems are fire, human land use, introduced plants and animals, and disease. The Army's natural resource staff of over 30 dedicated professionals implement various management actions to counter these threats. Included are fuels reduction around TES populations, fencing to exclude feral animals, and other control of alien species and disease.