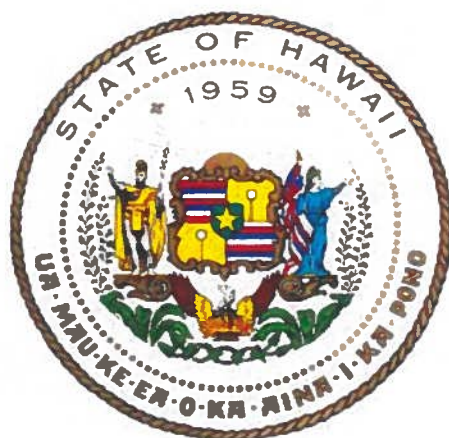


**Report to the Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2023**

**Report of Findings and Recommendations
Pertaining to Shooting Facilities**



**Prepared by:
Hunter Education Program
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii**

**In response to:
Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022**

**Honolulu, Hawaii
November 2022**

Report of Findings and Recommendations Pertaining to Shooting Facilities

This report is submitted in accordance with Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022, regarding the submission of a report of findings and recommendations pertaining to shooting facilities.

Act 214, SLH 2022, SECTION 1 (a) provides there is established within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for administrative purposes a working group to:

- Determine basic shooting facility requirements, including the type of shooting venues desired for rifle, pistol, shotgun, air gun, archery, or other shooting sports on the island of Hawaii;
- Construct a preliminary diagram showing all desired shooting venues and the basic support infrastructure required, determine the land size necessary for construction, and incorporate any safety zones required to prevent the escape of projectiles;
- Create and publish a “Shooting Facility Requirements Manual” that incorporates the work of the working group, including a list and description of the desired shooting venues, required infrastructure, and priority of construction;
- Conduct a review of appropriate building sites, elements driving construction, accessibility, gunfire sound propagation, lead management ability, cultural and biological use restrictions, climatology, access to utilities, and vandalism protection;
- Prepare an estimate of design, time-phased construction, and facility operational costs;
- Identify potential sources of revenue; and
- Seek support from potential or identified facility development and operational entities

The Department has been working with the County of Hawaii, and other interested parties to identify potential shooting facility locations. The Department notes in 2004, a 14-member Shooting Range Working Group comprised of representatives from several island gun and archery clubs, the Hawai'i County Council, Hawai'i County Police Department, the Forestry and Wildlife, and Conservation and Resource Enforcement Divisions of the Department, and other interested citizens was formed to continue the search for a suitable site.

Several years ago, several sites were identified by the 2004 Working Group for potential use including:

- **Stainback Highway Site.** In 1990, a State-owned parcel of land on Stainback Highway was considered for a shooting range that could support the Hawai'i Hunter Education Program. This site was eliminated from consideration due to weather conditions (frequent and intense rainfall) as well as objections from the hunting community. Frequent and intense rainfall would interfere with range use and reliability of operating hours.

There was also a concern that that oxidized forms of lead and arsenic may leach out of the spent lead shot more quickly in a heavy rainfall area. For these reasons, the site on Stainback Highway was eliminated from consideration.

- **Pōhakuloa Training Area.** In 1991, some attention by the community was given to approaching the Army for a public shooting range at Pōhakuloa Training Area. The concept did not receive military support and was subsequently discarded as an alternative.
- **Pu'u Wa'awa'a Quarry Site.** The ahupua'a of Pu'u Wa'awa'a is located immediately adjacent to the south boundary of Pu'u Anahulu ahupua'a. In 2002, the Department of Land and Natural Resources initiated effort to develop a management plan for the public lands at Pu'u Wa'awa'a, which contained a quarry site. Objective 62 of the 2003 approved Management Plan for the Ahupua'a of Pu'u Wa'awa'a and Makai Lands of Pu'u Anahulu specified that a public shooting facility be an integral part of managed development of the public lands (State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, 2003). The quarry located in Pu'u Wa'awa'a, "or another designated site" is identified as a possible location for a public shooting range.

At the time, the quarry was occasionally used by various clubs and others for shooting activities. In 2002, a presentation was made to potential stakeholders on a proposed shooting range at the Pu'u Wa'awa'a quarry site. An assessment was also made of required infrastructure improvements. Some of the cost elements identified included asbestos removal from, and modification to, an existing building structure, access road paving, parking, construction of safety berms and covered shooting points, and other facility needs. An informal sound measurement survey was made.

While initially attractive for its infrastructure improvements, the quarry site at Pu'u Wa'awa'a proved too small to accommodate the elements desired in a multi-purpose shooting facility. Additional factors such as the close proximity of residences in Pu'u Wa'awa'a and the adjacent Pu'u Lani subdivision, questionable stability of the undercut cone face, and expressed opposition to the site on cultural grounds, suggested a search for an alternate location

Due to the issues and concerns of the previously mentioned sites, a location at Puu Anahulu, in West Hawaii has been identified previously as the potential preferred site by the Department and other partner entities of the previous 2004 Working Group. However, given the requirements of Act 214, the Working Group called for within the Act will need to make its own findings and recommendations.

For the Legislature's information, some of the requirements, elements and improvements that have been previously identified for this conceptual facility at Puu Anahulu by the 2004 Working Group includes the following:

- **Entry** – An extension of the landfill road to the range site is proposed to access the site. The road will 24- feet wide to allow for two 10-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. The road will be asphalt and may be striped. It will be gated to help secure the facility when not in operation.
- **Range Center** - A range center is situated near the site entry. The range center is anticipated to serve multiple purposes and uses that grow in intensity as the range develops. The range center will be the hub for security, communications and range maintenance. Initially, the range center is expected to be a basic facility where the public can check in/out and receive safety briefings. At the outset, the range center may be housed in a portable, temporary structure that can be easily removed as physical and programming of the range develops. The range center is expected to evolve to include classroom space that could accommodate hunter education programs and be flexible for other range and shooting sport trainings. Long term, the range center is anticipated to include food and beverage service.
- **Ranges** – Programming (range type and quantity) was developed by the State in consultation with the range architect, Hawai'i Island hunters and marksmen, and community input received during and after the public meeting on June 6, 2012. The layout of the ranges is governed by the locations of the 1,000-yard range and the Trap and Skeet Fields, which require specific orientation due to sun aspect, level ground contours for clay shot recovery and safety considerations. Each range is accompanied by a parking area and securable storage facilities.

Trap and Skeet Fields - Two trap and four combination Trap/Skeet fields are proposed. Because Trap fields are narrower than Skeet fields, the plan suggests development of two dedicated Trap fields with additional trap capabilities on the remaining four Skeet fields. These venues are oriented to the north which is required for sanctioned competition

Sporting Clays Course - This area is represented on the Master Plan by a circle of a size to accommodate 13 shooting stations. Direction of fire is toward the center of the circle.

High Power Long Distance Range (1,000 Yard Range) – This is designed as a 1,000 yard competitive range combined with a 1,000 yard general purpose range. The range is designed to accommodate the National Match Course and Long Range Shooting competitions. The range has a fixed target with firing points established at 200, 300, 600, 800, 900, and 1,000 Yards.

Rifle Range – A covered, 200-yard rifle site-in range is planned with up to 30 covered bench rest firing points and manual target settings at 50, 100, 150 and 200 yards.

3-D Archery Field – This area is represented on the Master Plan by a circle of a size adequate to accommodate up to 20 positions with direction of fire toward the center of the field, allowing for adequate separation for safe retrieval of arrows.

Target Archery Range – A covered, 10-position range with targets placed at: 20- feet; 5-yard intervals between 20 and 65 yards, with additional targets positioned at 70 and 90 meters to accommodate the maximum number of competitive events.

Small-bore/Air gun Range – Situated adjacent to the rifle range, the small-bore/air gun range is planned with ten covered firing points and target settings at various distances (10 meter and 50 meter; 50 feet; and 50 and 100 yards) to accommodate a variety of users.

Pistol Range – A general purpose pistol range with up to 15 covered firing positions and targets at 25 and 50 yards is planned immediately adjacent to the small-bore/air gun range.

Action Ranges – Eight action ranges are planned. The 150-foot action range is designed with appropriate backstops and width to accommodate 180-degree shooting.

- **Hunter Education Course** - The Master Plan anticipates a hunter education course that allows an opportunity for field education. The Hunter Education Course is not designed to be a shooting venue. The course will be a trail that meanders through some of the site's archaeological features, including trail remnants and c-shaped excavations in the native lava. Signage is anticipated along the course to interpret the archaeological features and to demark training stations. Interpretive and hunter educational signage programming will be determined at a later time at the discretion of the State.

- **Support Facilities & Infrastructure Improvements** – Proposed support facilities include the loop road that accesses all of the range venues, parking areas, securable storage facilities, and comfort stations.

The interior loop road: is proposed to be 24-foot wide with two asphalt surfaced travel lanes and a two-foot gravel shoulder on each side. The road may be striped.

Parking areas: Proposed at all venues including the range center, all shooting venues and the hunter education course and picnic area. Parking areas are anticipated to be either gravel or asphalt surfaced. The parking areas have been designed to accommodate 90-degree parking, with adequate room for vehicular maneuvering. Parking areas have been sized based on expected use of the various ranges.

Storage facilities: The purpose of these facilities is to house range equipment and targets near their intended venue with protection from the elements, unauthorized use and theft.

Comfort Stations: Proposed throughout the project at range venues. Initially, portable toilets will likely be used during construction and in the formative phases of the range. Composting toilets are planned for most range venues. Comfort stations at the Range Center will also initially be composting toilets with eventual development of flush toilet facilities if and when water is made available to the site.

Water Tank: The tank may be needed for water storage when the range is connected to the adjacent landfill's well and in later phases of the project, for storage if a connection to potable water is made.

The shooting facility including all berms, backstops and setbacks will sit on approximately 640 acres.

CONCLUSION:

Given Act 214, SLH 2022, the Department intends to form the Working Group with members as provided for in Act 214, but has not yet formally done so. This Working Group, once formed, will determine the feasibility of the site at Puu Anahulu identified by the 2004 Working Group, the applicability, currency and relevancy of the requirements earlier identified by the previous 2004 Working Group, and provide the other information required by the Act. From there, the Working Group will provide its findings and recommendations.