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HAWAII REPORT TO THE 7th INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK AGAINST MILITARISM (IWNAM)

September 15, 2009 * Mangilao, Guahan (Guam)

* Submitted by Women's Voices/Women Speak women activists from DMZ Hawai'i Aloha 'Aina & American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Hawai'i Area Program

The US military takeover of Hawai'i enabled the rise of America into a global power. Today Hawai'i has become a focal point for military expansion and a major platform from which wars are planned, practiced and launched. WVWS/DMZ Hawai'i Aloha 'Aina & AFSC Hawai'i promote demilitarization, peace and human rights by seeking to reverse the devastating impacts of militarization and war on the people and the land in Hawai'i and by countering the growing militarization of Hawai'i and Asia-Pacific region that threatens peace in this increasingly important area of the world.

The Hawai'i report is an update of activities, campaigns and projects we have been working on since we last met in San Francisco 2007. In this report we will cover the following:

- Military sites
- Environmental justice
- Youth & Militarism
- Women's Issues
- Kanaka Maoli Sovereignty
- International Solidarity
- Peace and Anti-War issues

MILITARY SITES

- **Makua Valley, Oahu:** After being blocked by the courts from conducting live fire training in Makua valley for four years, the Army completed its environmental impact statement and announced that it will resume live fire training after August 31, 2009. Community groups have sued again, challenging the sufficiency of the studies. The legal strategy may bring diminishing returns. We are discussing the need to escalate actions at Makua to get the Army to stop once and for all.
- **Mokapu, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Oahu** – Ten years ago a dozen Kanaka Maoli families and organizations came forward to claim human remains (iwi kupuna) found on the base under a Federal law called NAGPRA [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Graves_Protection_and_Repatriation_Act)Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Due to new housing and base facility construction, over one hundred fragmented human remains have recently surfaced. The families requested a moratorium on construction last year however KMCAS and the private housing developer Forrest City continued building despite the families protest. Renewed discussions on the problem are currently taking place.
- **Waimanalo, Bellows Air Force Base, Oahu:** The Air Force plans to expand recreational lodging in Waimanalo. Bellows Air Force Base was built on the occupied national lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom ("ceded" land), and the Hawaiian community have renewed calls for the base to be closed and the land returned. The

Marine Corps has built an urban assault training facility at Bellows and have expanded its training there, even importing Afghani Americans from California to simulate an Afghan village. As a result of intensified training, the base has started to harass people who use the public beach area that fronts the base.

- **Waikane, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Oahu** After the community stopped Marine Corps' plans to expand training activities in Waikane valley in 2003, the Marine Corps quietly closed the range and began preparing for the clean up of unexploded ordnance from the land. We have monitored and pushed for a thorough clean up and for the return of the land to the Kamaka (kanaka maoli) family, from whom it was taken.
- **Lihue, Oahu & Pohakuloa, Hawai'i Island:** The Army has applied for a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to "possess" depleted uranium, which contaminates the ranges at Lihu'e (Schofield Range) and Pohakuloa. The DU was released in the 1960s when the Army trained to fire Davy Crockett tactical nuclear weapons. The Army claims that the DU does not pose a threat to humans or the environment and wants to leave the material in place while it continues to conduct live fire training. The communities, including the Hawaii County Council have called for a moratorium on training and for the clean up of the DU.

Environmental Justice and health

- **Environmental Justice Working Group** - AFSC Hawai'i began to focus on base building in Wai'anae. In the summer of 2008, we produced educational materials on environmental justice a human right and helped to organize the Wai'anae Environmental Justice Working Group. This past summer, we sponsored a summer environmental justice youth training institute. The youth conducted community mapping of EJ hazards and resources and engaged in organizing activities in the community. The group has taken on toxic landfills, military contamination in Lualualei, off shore and in Makua, and illegal dumping.

Handwritten notes: 10/11/08, Youth, from community, 2/16/11 mapping, 7/18/11 PEB/AFSC

Youth & Militarism

- **CHOICES** (Committee Helping Open and Inform Choices in Education and Schools) is a project started by AFSC and the Honolulu Friends Meeting. Military recruiters have seemingly unrestricted access to students and have engaged in fraudulent and abusive practices in public schools in Hawaii. Our work has encompassed the following:
 - **Changing policies to protect students from military recruiters:** Under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) schools are required to provide student information to military recruiters. AFSC/CHOICES helped to pass new statewide policies by which: (1) allowed secondary students to opt themselves out of military recruitment lists without parental permission; (2) maintained the opt-out status throughout their high school career unless a change was requested. As a result of these efforts, opt-out registration jumped from 1,913 to 21,836 from 2006-2007.
 - **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) :** The ASVAB is promoted in the schools as a career assessment tool rather than a recruitment one. Students who take it routinely have their information and test results forwarded to military recruiters without their knowledge or consent, even if they opted out of military recruitment lists under the No Child Left Behind Act, due to a provision that exempts the ASVAB from

privacy laws. After a successful campaign which organized students, parents and educators calling for changes to this policy, the Superintendent of the Department of Education recently announced that all public schools in Hawai'i that choose to offer the ASVAB must select "Option 8" - designating that no student information or test results will be released to military recruiters. Students may still choose to take the test and release their test results to the military after signing the appropriate authorization forms.

- Sponsoring speakers: CHOICES sponsored speakers to schools on several islands, featuring veterans, military family members and Iraqi survivors of the war.
- National Network Opposed to Militarization of Youth (NNOMY) conference in Chicago. Several Hawai'i women activists, including one youth represented Hawai'i at the NNOMY conference. They came back with valuable information, contacts, and inspiration.
- Speaking Truth to Power through poetry: The CHOICES coordinator has worked with youth poetry programs in schools and community to develop youth voices for peace and justice. One of the youth from the high school poetry club where we work was a member of the Hawai'i Youth Speaks team that won the youth poetry slam championship.
- We have also collaborated with graffiti artists to incorporate political education and messaging in various mural projects in an poor urban neighborhood.

- Eyes Wide Open exhibit: The display, created by AFSC, was designed as a remembrance of the true cost of war. Shoes and boots are tagged with names of US soldiers and Iraqi civilians killed as a result of war. AFSC/CHOICES brought the display to Farrington High School. Over 700 students saw the exhibit and watched the accompanying video which has an anti-war and counter-recruitment message.

Women's Issues

- **Official website of Women's Voices, Women Speak/DMZ Hawai'i Aloha 'Aina** was launched for the 7th IWNAM conference in Guam <http://www808.blogspot.com/> Big mahalo to Webmaster & Hawai'i woman activist Ellen-Rae Cachola for putting the website together.
- **WVWS/DMZ Hawaii Demilitarization & Third Path Reproductive Justice movements join forces**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND MILITARISM IN HAWAI'I - A report by Melanie Medalle, affiliated with Gender Equity Advocacy Office, UH Manoa; 3rd Path for Reproductive Justice; Co-Chair, C.E.J.E. (student-activist women's collective).

The following findings are based on research conducted by National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV), Gender Equity Advocacy Office at UH Manoa, personal interviews with Jennifer Rose, JD, Gender Equity Specialist (UHM), print media news sources compiled by Kyle Kajihiro of AFSC-Hawaii with coverage of cases occurring over a 10-year period, and the UN Secretary General's campaign "Unite to End Violence Against Women."

The United Nations General Assembly defines "violence against women" as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental

harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women states that VAW can be carried out by any gender, by a person that is known or unknown to the victim, or by the State

Violence Against Women (VAW) can include sexual assault, sexual torture, sexual harassment; "domestic" violence: physical, emotional, psychological, verbal, economic, sexual abuse by intimate partner or other family member. These practices are associated with objectification, ownership, and dehumanization (NNEDV). It is gender-based in that it is disproportionately committed against women by men, and is profoundly nuanced by socioeconomic status, immigration status, and status as the partner, spouse, or family member of military personnel (HSCADV).

In Hawaii, lack of systematic tracking and documentation (by government bodies) of military-related domestic violence and sexual assault cases, which inhibits a clear and specific analysis of the scope of the problem (Kajihiro 2008, Program Director AFSC).

Because of this, AFSC has begun to compile cases through informal networks, web and print news outlets; the specific narratives of individual cases indicate a rise in frequency and severity of military-related domestic violence associated with tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Advocates and some judicial officials in the anti-VAW movement report an increase in the rate of military-related domestic violence cases, associated with intensified PTSD after returning home from tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq (Honolulu Advertiser, Perez 2008). The lethality of domestic violence in these situations may increase with the PTSD factor coupled with the technical means available to military personnel.

Women's Voices, Women Speak/DMZ Hawaii Aloha 'Aina will continue to do work by:

1. Continuing to track and compile reported military-related domestic violence and sexual assault cases, through networks and web, print news sources.
2. Participate jointly with the 3rd Path Movement for Reproductive Justice, linking health and sustainability of economic, environmental, political, social and cultural practices with Reproductive Justice.
3. Work with CEJE (Collective for Equality, Justice, and Empowerment). CEJE hosted an educational panel on VAW. The Third Path joined CEJE at it's consciousness raising concert at UH Manoa and shared their educational materials on Reproductive Justice; we are continuing volunteer work with Girlfest Hawaii (arts festival aimed at ending violence against women and girls); we will be hosting a conference at UH Manoa on healing from violence, analysis of oppression, and dialogue on decolonization.

Kanaka Maoli Sovereignty

- Ceded Lands
- Anti-Statehood demonstration

CEDED LANDS

Excerpt from AFSC PSR Voices/News Spring 2009

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FIGHTING A LEGAL FICTION

On January 17, 2009 (the 116th anniversary of the US invasion of Hawaii) thousands of Kanaka Maoli (native Hawaiians) with allies such as AFSC, marched through Waikiki to protest the State of Hawaii's efforts to sell the lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom currently controlled by the State of Hawaii. The so-called "ceded lands" controversy began in 1898 when the US formally occupied Hawaii and took possession of crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom. "Ceded lands is a legal fiction," said Kyle Kajihiro, AFSC Hawaii Program Director. "It's like bank robbers claiming that the bank 'ceded to them the money.' The US wrongfully seized the land of a sovereign country, and therein lies their defective title."

International and US laws do not allow annexation of the territory of another country without a treaty of annexation. There was never such a treaty of annexation between the US and the Hawaiian Kingdom. Rather, the US occupied Hawaii during the Spanish-American War to provide a fuel and provisioning stop for US troops en route to the Philippines, and never left. After its entry into the union, the State of Hawaii was tasked with managing these lands in trust for the benefit of Kanaka Maoli and other residents of Hawaii. Several years ago, when the state attempted to sell some of the Hawaiian national land trust, several Kanaka Maoli sued to block the transaction. The state Supreme Court sided with the plaintiffs and banned the sale or transfer of the ceded lands until native Hawaiian claims are resolved. But the Governor appealed to the US Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in February. The state argued that Kanaka Maoli have no unique claims to the Hawaiian national lands. Kanaka Maoli are almost unanimous in demanding that the state drop the appeal or enact a moratorium on the sale of these lands, expressing concern that this case might end Kanaka Maoli claims and diminish the land base of the Hawaiian nation.

Anti-Statehood Protest

Hawaiians protest statehood and push for freedom August 22, 2009

See the video at the KHNL website:

<http://www.khnl.com/global/story.asp?s=10973362>

HONOLULU (KHNL) - Statehood united Hawaii with the rest of the country. But it has also divided many of our island residents for five decades. Many Hawaiians did not want to become a part of the United States 50 years ago. They fought against it then, and that fight continues today. Protestors marched with a mission to the Hawaii Convention Center. Yelling slogans, and chanting in Hawaiian, hundreds made their voices heard, as they called for an end to statehood.

"We didn't want to be part of the United States and yet we are," said Lynette Cruz, with the Hawaiian Independence Alliance. Among the shouting for independence for our islands, there were also symbolic gestures these protestors took to make their point. Cutting out the 50th star from the American flag. Knocking down a symbol of Uncle Sam's hold on countries around the Pacific. They also highlighted, what they call 'the third major crime' committed against the Hawaiian people.

"Statehood was a crime, it was the third crime. First, crime overthrow, for which the US government apologized. Second came the annexation of Hawaii. Third is statehood," said Kekuni Blaisdell, a Hawaiian Activist. While many were fired up for Friday's protest, organizers say in order for their efforts to be successful, they must continue to push just as hard for independence in years to come. It's a battle Native Hawaiians have been fighting for the past 50 years. And it's one they plan to keep on fighting until Hawaii is free from US rule. "The US and the State of Hawaii has to get ready for change. We're not going to back off until it's fixed," added Cruz.

International Solidarity

- Solidarity with the Chamorro movement:** WVWS/DMZ Hawaii Aloha Aina and AFSC Hawaii hosted a speaking tour for Chamorro activist Michael Lujan Bevacqua in June 2009. We produced a 30 minute interview for MAKING WAVES which was aired on Olelo, a local community cable station (check out www.dmzhawaii.org for the interview.) Also, Shiloh Melei (Samoa/Tokolau), a Farrington High school student, writer, slam poet and AFSC Summer Youth intern wrote an article about Michael. The article was printed in the Hawaii Independent newspaper (attached).
- Micronesian Community Health Care Crisis:** Due to the fiscal crisis the State of Hawai'i planned to switch Micronesians in Hawai'i to an inferior public health insurance plan that would not cover services such as chemotherapy or dialysis. Hawai'i has a large Micronesian population. Many of them can be considered nuclear refugees. Due to the unique status of Micronesians under the Compact of Free Association, Micronesians are allowed to migrate to the U.S. as 'nonimmigrants'. However, they often fall through the cracks of the system. Micronesians United, with the support of allies like AFSC Hawai'i and Ohana Koa/NFIP organized actions to call for a moratorium on cutting off vital health services such as chemotherapy or dialysis. After refusing to meet with the community, the Governor reversed her position and "found" additional monies to help cover Micronesian patients needing dialysis. The courts also issued a temporary restraining order to block the state from cutting off these services.
- Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Militarization of Space:** Katy Rose attended the Global Network conference in Korea representing AFSC Hawai'i and DMZ-Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina. She shared information regarding the Pacific Missile Range Facility missile defense and network centric warfare complex in Kaua'i and its impacts on the community.
- National Campaign to End the Korean War:** Local activists organized a candlelight vigil and march calling for the end to the Korean War as part of a five-city coordinated action.
- Security Without Empire:** A Hawai'i delegation participated in the international organizing conference on foreign military bases in Washington, D.C. www.projectonmilitarybases.org

PEACE & ANTI-WAR ISSUES

- Hosted **Raed Jarrar**, an Iraqi political analyst and consultant to AFSC's Iraq Program currently based in Washington DC. He established Emaar (meaning reconstruction in Arabic), a grassroots organization that provided humanitarian and political aid to Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs). Emaar delivered medicine and food as well as helped initiate micro-enterprise projects for IDPs.
- Hosted **Maricela Guzman**, a member of Service Women Action Network (SWAN) and a Navy veteran and rape survivor. She spoke about the intersection of women's issues and militarism specifically how it impacts service women and woman who service the bases. She served at Diego Garcia. She spoke to high school students about the reality of military service.