



# Meeting Minutes

## Geotechnical Testing at Kuaokalā Ridge Section 106/Chapter 6E Consultation

### Meeting Minutes

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Date: October 9, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Wai'anae Community Center, Wai'anae, HI

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The purpose of the meeting was to present information about the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) proposed geotechnical testing at Kuaokalā Ridge in support of the Homeland Defense Radar – Hawai'i (HDR-H) project and consult with Native Hawaiian Organizations and other consulting parties about the geotechnical testing. The purpose of the consultation was to answer questions about the proposal and receive input that would help the MDA comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Chapter 6E of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Rear Admiral Jon Hill, Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), began the meeting by introducing the purpose and need for the Homeland Defense Radar – Hawai'i project. John Desoto and Rocky Naeole from the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Moku 'O Kapuaiwa opened the meeting with a pule and blowing of the pū.

Rear Admiral Hill discussed the presence of the stenographer, noting that if anyone did not want to be recorded, they should let her know and she would stop recording. Rear Admiral Hill introduced Dr. Buff Crosby, the new environmental lead for the HDR-H project. Dr. Crosby introduced Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and contractors at the meeting: Rear Admiral Hill (MDA Deputy Director), Brigadier General Mike Guetlein (MDA Program Director), David Klintiver (MDA Facilities Lead), Frank Pendergast (HDR-H Deployment Product Manager), Adrienne Godfrey (Deputy Program Manager, Radar), Elizabeth Leclerc (Contractor Archaeologist), Jeanne Barnes (Contractor Architectural Historian), and Brigadier General Okahara (National Guard, Adjutant General). Dr. Crosby reviewed the purpose and agenda for the meeting, which was to consist of a presentation about the geotechnical testing proposal followed by discussion and questions. Dr. Crosby provided the website where meeting minutes would be posted ([www.mda.mil](http://www.mda.mil)).

Dr. Crosby reviewed where MDA is in the environmental process for the HDR-H project and the Section 106/Chapter 6E processes for the geotechnical testing, and discussed what MDA hoped to achieve through consultation. Meeting participants noted that the definition of "historic properties" does not include land, which is very important to Native Hawaiians. Dr. Crosby noted MDA will do a traditional cultural properties survey as part of the larger HDR-H project that will take into account some of these issues.

A meeting participant asked why the military needs to take more land and build a larger radar, considering how much technology has improved. The participant stated radar will cause more noise and vibration, which will have an impact. He

also stated MDA needs to use Hawaiian consultants. Participants were disappointed that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Division of Forestry and Wildlife were not in attendance at the meeting.

A participant asked if MDA would do an archaeological survey of Kahuku Training Area (KTA). Dr. Crosby affirmed MDA would. Another participant asked if there were any other alternatives for the HDR-H besides Kuaokalā Ridge and KTA. Dr. Crosby reviewed the site selection process and stated these were the three alternatives (one at Kuaokalā Ridge and two at KTA) that were selected for analysis. A participant asked if KTA is leased or owned by the Army. Another participant discussed that the military leases KTA, and went on to discuss sensitive species on military properties on O'ahu. The participant commented the radar project will destroy efforts to restore sensitive and native species and that geotechnical testing will affect the soil.

A participant stated that MDA should be able to remove Kuaokalā Ridge from consideration for the project. He also discussed that the area is a lele po, a place where people go into a different realm when they pass. He discussed that as kupuna lele from there, they go forward as warriors for the people. When he turned kupuna, he started to hear people calling him to help them. Another participant echoed these thoughts, stating that now that he is a kupuna, he can hear everyone and feels what other kupunas have gone through and tried to pass on. He stated that Hawaiians and the military can agree to disagree, but that they need to communicate and this can lead to a win-win situation. He stated that the military, coming from the outside, doesn't know about the significance of an area and does disrespectful things and destroys the land and the water. He stated there needs to be better communication so that the Hawaiians can inform the military and they can make it work together. Dr. Crosby stated that MDA wants to build that relationship and have that back and forth to understand people's concerns and make informed decisions.

A participant discussed that outsiders and tourists go to the heiaus, like Kaneauki, and desecrate them – they go inside, take pohaku or move them around. They change what it was supposed to be, and what it was. The heiaus need to be protected. The participant stated that he appreciates they are being protected (by the military and radar), but the aina and spirits need to be protected as well. The fence around the Moka'ena Heiau is in disrepair and the site is being desecrated by cows.

A participant asked if the MDA has ever built a radar like the one they are proposing, and asked if there are any negative effects on the land. Rear Admiral Hill answered the MDA has built other radars and has not seen any impacts on the land. He explained the radars are raised up off the ground so people can walk around them, and the energy is directed upward into space. There was confusion about the shape of the beam of radar energy and whether it would intersect the ground and potentially affect the plants or animals. Rear Admiral Hill and Brigadier General Okahara explained that the radar energy does not intersect the ground but goes upward. Participants pressed the question whether there is a one hundred percent guarantee that the radar would not affect the land or anyone, that there would not be any negative effects. Brigadier General Guetlein stated that older radars did have some problems, but with new radars the energy travels in a straight line. It is also possible to notch out sections from the radar, like a circle out of the middle that doesn't have any energy at all.

There was a question about native birds that fly in front of the radar and whether there is an effect on them. Dr. Crosby stated that there have been studies, and the MDA has data that can show that the radar doesn't affect birds flying through the radar. One participant asked about birds that hover in front of the radar, like owls. Dr. Crosby stated that at a radar in Alaska, crows go and eat on the face of the radar.

A participant asked additional questions about how the radar works, how it moves, and the size or radius of the beam.

Brigadier General Guetlein explained that the radar is steered electronically and is directed into space. The radar isn't like old radars that just generate radiation that can't be controlled. The electronic radars can control the direction of all the radiation and it does not come down to the ground. The participant asked about the existing radar in Alaska and whether any studies have been done to see if radar has had any effects on the Native Alaskans and their health. Brigadier General Guetlein stated they have seen no effects on health, but did not know if there were any specific studies on the people who have lived or worked around the base of the radar. The participant stated this is important to know, because the Hawaiian people are a dying race and they need to look after future generations.

A participant asked about the purpose of the meeting related to Section 106 and Chapter 6E, stating the previous discussion was all about the effects on people. Dr. Crosby answered that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss Section 106 and Chapter 6E, but that MDA wants to hear what people have to say more generally, build relationships, and learn how to better work with the participants. A participant stated she is against the radar being built at Kuaokalā Ridge when the military already owns or leases the other two alternative sites. She discussed health effects and that as a health provider, she is seeing a lot more cancer in Wai'anae, including cancers that wouldn't be expected based on their age or life habits. She stated that with any kind of continuous strong radiation there should be concern about its effects on the human body. She appreciates the military but wants to see stronger efforts with regard to peace.

Several participants discussed the difficulty accessing Kuaokalā Ridge, stating that people can only go certain times of the year and must have a state hunting license, which they shouldn't be required to get because they do not hunt—they are gathering. They discussed that their hunting tradition is not a game, but was how they used to survive. They go up there now to get food and fruits to survive. They need that access, which is provided for by law, to keep their traditional practices alive. He asked how much worse access will be once the radar is built, stating that the only access now from the Wai'anae side is to go through the military, that they can only go three months of the year, and cannot go if they lack a driver's license or vehicle registration. Practitioners who want to go up there at an appropriate time for them can't go up if it doesn't meet the military's schedule or DLNR's schedule, and so cultural practices and religious practices have been denied for a long time. A participant asked why it is so important to the military to put the radar at Kuaokalā Ridge and not at another spot or one of the other islands. Rear Admiral Hill stated that based on the trajectories from countries like North Korea, the Kuaokalā Ridge site is one of the optimal sites. The radar also needs infrastructure and power.

A participant suggested that MDA needs to take the comments being heard tonight and provide them to the people doing the Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The analysis needs to address issues that people are raising at this meeting even though they may not be related to Section 106 and Chapter 6E, such as impacts on health, on native birds and other species, and ocean life. She also asked that the NEPA analysis consider cumulative impacts with everything already going on at the ridge, even if those projects have already been analyzed. Dr. Crosby explained that she is the NEPA lead for this effort and she will make sure the people preparing the EIS take the comments from these consultation meetings into consideration.

A meeting participant commented about statements that no endangered species are present in the project area, asking what has been going on that eliminated all the native species or if the survey was inadequate. He asked when the military will start removing some of the buildings at Ka'ena Point Satellite Tracking Station. He asked why MDA isn't considering a floating ship design rather than a fixed design, and noted that the funding on the HDR-H project has already been approved by Congress. Meanwhile, he stated, the latest tests have shown that the missile defense system is not effective and did not hit the test

rocket until after it passed Hawai'i.

Several participants discussed Hawaiian sovereignty issues such as the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the U.S. occupation, commenting that the military does not own the land. One participant commented that the military is desecrating the land they are using—whereas the land was pristine when they took it, the land is now a dump.

A participant discussed World War II and Pearl Harbor, and suggested the radar will be ineffective. He asked why the radar is needed on Hawai'i and not somewhere else like Alaska. Rear Admiral Hill discussed that a sensing radar was needed in Hawai'i to protect the islands. Although the current radars protect against threats today, they will not be good enough to protect against threats in the future.

A participant discussed citations in the Archaeological Inventory Survey for Handy and Handy and McAllister, stating that she is the granddaughter of Edward Niaupio, who was a cultural informant for McAllister. She stated that if the MDA truly understood McAllister's work and what her tutu man was explaining, they would be able to connect all the heiaus in Hawai'i quantitatively. She stated that the MDA's proposal would have devastating effects. The area around the project is a lele, and that is far more important than having a radar. She discussed some of her family's roles during and after World War II and her activism with uranium issues and nuclear waste.

One participant commented that among the indigenous species studied at the site, MDA needs to consider that one indigenous species, Native Hawaiians, are missing from the area because they are not allowed, and it has become more difficult over time. Another participant asked about the use of Hawaiian contractors for monitoring of the geotechnical testing, and whether the MDA could use people from the west side of the island. MDA answered that they were unaware of how the contractors were selected or how they choose the individual monitors, but that they would follow up on this question. The commenter said it would be best to have people from and representative of the community. Several participants echoed this concern, that information about the project area needs to come from that part of the aina, from lineal descendants and local practitioners. They also discussed that Wai'anae often bears the brunt of environmentally degrading projects because they are disadvantaged and have low voter turn out.

Participants discussed that the Hawaiians need to come together with the MDA to work out their concerns, show them the areas, and see what they can do. The community members who came to the meeting came from their feeling for the aina from mauka to makai, and those need to be addressed. They need to work together so that it continues and can be passed on to their children and grandchildren.

Rear Admiral Hill thanked everyone for attending and summarized some of the concerns he heard. He stated MDA is going to take these concerns back and make them part of their overall discussion. A participant from the Royal Order of Kamehameha reiterated their concern for the heiau and the lele, and shared that the heiau was how the kahunas used to communicate from Kaua'i to O'ahu. He offered to share information about the protocols for historical sites. Meeting participants asked for the stenographer's transcript. Dr. Crosby stated they would look into that. Ms. Leclerc added the meeting minutes would be posted on the MDA website at a minimum. Dr. Crosby asked for people to submit additional comments by October 24 and closed the meeting.