



Posted on: Thursday, February 7, 2008

Letters to the Editor

MAKUA

TIME FOR ARMY TO START COMPLYING WITH LAW

If Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon is concerned about limits on training at Makua and the requirement to consider alternate locations for the Stryker brigade ("Stryker brigade, Makua key, Mixon says," Jan. 29), he shouldn't blame Native Hawaiians and environmentalists.

Instead, he should take responsibility for the Army's stubborn refusal to comply with the laws Congress established to protect Hawai'i's cultural and biological treasures. Courts don't issue injunctions unless the defendant has violated the law.

Mixon's rhetoric about the need to train at Makua cannot stand up to the facts. Due to the Army's failure to complete the required environmental review, only 26 live-fire exercises have occurred at Makua in the past nine years, with no rounds fired since June 2004.

During that time, Hawai'i's units have successfully deployed to combat numerous times, receiving the training they need elsewhere.

As for the Stryker brigade, after years of claiming Hawai'i is the only place the Army could meet its objectives, the Army's draft alternatives analysis (required by the same court orders about which Mixon complains) found Alaska and Colorado would serve equally well, with far less environmental damage.

Another recent Army study concluded Strykers could be stationed at four additional locations (two in Washington state and one each in Texas and New Mexico), again with less harm to the environment.

In our democracy, everyone must play by the rules, including the military. It's time for the Army to stop complaining about the laws, and start complying with them.

David L. Henkin
Earthjustice

TIPPING

SERVICE MEMBERS PUT LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US

After reading the Feb. 6 letter by Andrew Millbrooke regarding the military not tipping enough, I debated responding.

However, maybe Mr. Millbrooke needs to see the other side of the coin.

First, does Mr. Millbrooke know where the word tip comes from? Let me help, the word "tip" means "to ensure promptness."

Second, tipping is optional, not mandatory.

Third, be happy with whatever you receive on the table, and remember that the military put their lives on the line for you.

How dare you complain. Maybe Mr. Millbrooke should trade his plate of nachos in for a rifle.

Joe Carini
Nu'uano

NO CUSTOMER SHOULD FEEL OBLIGATED TO TIP

Poor tipping is not limited to military personnel as Andrew Millbrooke (Letters, Feb. 6) tries to portray.

'ELI STONE'

IRRESPONSIBLE TO LINK VACCINES AND AUTISM

The American Academy of Pediatrics Hawai'i chapter is disappointed that ABC (KITV-4) chose to air the premiere of "Eli Stone" on Jan. 31.

The American Academy of Pediatrics had requested that ABC cancel the opening episode, as it leaves the audiences with the destructive idea that vaccines cause autism.

We agree with Dr. Renee R. Jenkins, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, that a television show that perpetuates the myth that vaccines cause autism is the height of reckless irresponsibility. Vaccines are the single-most powerful, cost-effective public health intervention ever developed and no scientific link exists between vaccines and autism.

We regret that ABC has chosen to perpetuate yet another theory that is contrary to the best scientific evidence and could lead the public to fear and doubt the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

In Hawai'i, many communicable diseases, e.g. measles, Haemophilus meningitis, polio, are now uncommon or nonexistent as a result of vigorous vaccination programs.

In underdeveloped countries, where vaccines are not as available, this is not the case.

In 2002, the World Health Organization estimated that 1.4 million deaths among children under 5 years were due to diseases that could have been prevented by routine vaccination. This represents 14 percent of global total mortality in children under 5 years of age.

Galen Chock, M.D.

President, American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i chapter

[Back](#)

© COPYRIGHT 2008 The Honolulu Advertiser, a division of [Gannett Co.](#) Inc.

All materials contained on this site are protected by United States copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published or broadcast without the prior written permission of The Honolulu Advertiser. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice from copies of the content.