

Hayes, John

From: Mike Swerdlow [mike@mikeswerdlow.com]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 3:52 PM
To: Hayes, John
Subject: Polluting Pohakaloa

What bitter irony.

Isn't it ironic that the pentagon, the military branch of our government that is here to protect us, is helping to destroy us. One of the main and worst polluters on the Big Island of Hawaii is the military base at Pohakaloa. The 4,600 lbs. of mercury and lead they release into the soil every year, stays in the food chain and accumulates, and now we can add uranium, which is also putting our health at risk. The Pentagon's budget also helps to destroy our social programs by taking hundreds of billions of dollars out of our taxes every year that are needed to help the average American working class families. They waste much of our taxes on lucrative pork contracts to their political and financial supporter's favorite war machine corporations, like Halliburton, Bechtel, Lockheed Martin, the list goes on and on. Is our government going to protect us from the Pentagon or is the pentagon the real power in our government. In a democracy, we the people, should have the real power over the military to keep them from poisoning us with pollutants and squandering our resources, but it looks like the corporations that profit from our wars, run our government. It's the same "Bombs vs. Butter" argument that we had during another wasted war, "Vietnam". So, we keep having wars, we keep losing the money to fund our social programs like education, medical insurance, homelessness, hunger, environment protection, and the list goes on. Taxes, gas, medical insurance, education and the basic cost of living keep going up and our standard of living keeps going down. We keep getting poisoned from pollution by the very branch of the government that is here to protect us. Instead of making our country stronger, it seems that they are making more of us weaker, sicker, dumber, and poorer. My major concern, and the only place where my voice might be heard, is for the environment on the Big Island. We need an independent monitoring for Pohakuloa and the eight other Training Ranges being granted a "permit to possess" depleted uranium, PLUS - an E.I.S., a formal hearing, decommissioning, and clean up of all ranges that have applied for a "permit to possess".

Mahalo, Mike Swerdlow
Waikoloa