

# POLITICAL SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

## Organized Abandonment: Life and Waste in Post-Cold War Wai‘anae

By:

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This presentation examines the 9,200 acre military base at Lualualei in Wai‘anae and its surrounding environs, focusing on the significance of the Cold War and its aftermath. While post-Cold War military realignment transferred troops from Lualualei and minimized its operations, the US military held onto this land, leading to the conditions of abandonment that characterize the base today. I trace the systemic abandonment that structures the repetitive dispossession of the Wai‘anae Coast. This entails the coerced neglect of shared resources including communal land and water, and later, the abandonment of public goods in favor of a warfare state. A reading of this history rooted in ethnographic and archival sources begets a stretched definition of environmental racism, beyond the disproportionate environmental burdens confronting communities of color and native people. Further, layered histories of dispossession, including land commodification, organized abandonment, and militarization produces “group-differentiated vulnerability to premature death” (Ruth Wilson Gilmore) for Hawaiians and other working poor people in Lualualei. Likewise, environmental justice struggles entail not only organizing and advocacy demanding the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in environmental laws and policy, it also includes the recognition and recuperation of reciprocal connections to land in the service of economic systems that enact alternatives to a crisis-driven capitalist economy.



**Friday, November 16, 2018**

**2:30 – 4:00 pm**

*Light Refreshments will be served!*

**Saunders 624, Harry Friedman Room**

**NOTE: Colloquium is open to members and guests of the Department of Political Science**

**No recordings or videotaping permitted**