



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Friday, March 28, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR19 / HR19

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

Efforts to strengthen public-military relationships in Hawai'i are both timely and necessary. Hawai'i has a long history of military presence, and while this presence brings both opportunities and challenges, it is clear that deliberate coordination and partnership between military and civilian sectors are critical to maintaining public trust, ensuring mutual benefit, and promoting resilience across our islands.

In this spirit, I would like to respectfully highlight the work and mission of the State's new Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO), established to promote and sustain strong partnerships between Hawai'i's military and civilian communities. MACRO's work includes identifying areas of shared interest, fostering transparent communication, and building trust through collaboration. This includes initiatives focused on land use, workforce development, emergency preparedness, natural resource protection, and other issues relevant to both the public and the military.

MACRO has begun to serve as a convener and liaison across sectors and would be a valuable resource to any future task force as proposed in this resolution. Leveraging existing infrastructure like MACRO can enhance the effectiveness of any task force and help ensure alignment with statewide efforts to address the concerns raised in the resolution such as access to resources, environmental stewardship, and coordinated emergency response.

Should the Governor move forward with convening a task force as proposed, incorporating insights from MACRO and aligning with its current initiatives may help advance thoughtful, long-term public-military solutions that serve Hawai'i's communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HR-19

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:43:57 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think we are good at that. The military has been wasteful and disrespectful to the islands and her people. The Military has to make up for all its mistakes, the slowness of Red Hill being one of them, before we develop such a task force.

HR-19

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:47:18 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this resolution for the safety of our military partners and our people. To develop and communicate mutually beneficial processes is a no-brainer. Not sure why it's not already being done! What are we focusing on? Do we have coordinated strategic plans? Sigh.

HR-19

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:40:54 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HR-19

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:45:15 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of this bill.

Stronger relationship with the military helps our state.

Louella Vidinha

Hawaii resident