

HR-90

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 4:25:08 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/19/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tevita Tulahe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tevita Tulahe, and I am a proud service member of the United States Army. I was born and raised in Wailuku, Maui, and Hawai'i will always be my home, no matter where my service takes me. I am honored to submit this testimony in **strong support** of HR 90 and HCR94, which calls upon the Governor to designate Hawai'i as a Purple Heart State.

As a soldier, I have the privilege and responsibility of wearing the uniform of our nation. I have deployed in defense of our country, placing my life on the line, leaving behind my wife and family to uphold the freedoms and values that define America. Every time I step onto foreign soil in service to this nation, I do so knowing the risks, but also with an unwavering commitment and dedication to protect my fellow citizens and the land that raised me.

The Purple Heart is one of the most distinguished military decorations, awarded to those who have been wounded or killed in combat. It is a solemn recognition of the sacrifices made by service members who have endured the physical and emotional scars of war. Hawai'i, a state with a deep and proud military history, should join the ranks of other states that have honored these brave men and women by becoming a Purple Heart State.

Designating Hawai'i as a Purple Heart State is more than just a symbolic gesture, it is a statement of gratitude, respect, and remembrance. It is a commitment to honoring those who have borne the wounds of battle and ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten. This recognition will remind our communities of the price of freedom and the heroism of those who have served and those who continue to serve.

As someone who has experienced the realities of military life firsthand, I urge this committee to pass HR 90/HCR 94 and stand in support of Hawai'i's service members, past and present. Let us show the world that Hawai'i does not take for granted the sacrifices made by our military 'ohana.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tevita Tulahe

HR-90

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 5:57:36 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/19/2025 9:30:00 AM

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tjays	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the committee.

I am writing in strong support of HR90 and HCR94

Before I testify, I would like to introduce myself. I am not a recipient of this prestigious award, nor am I submitting testimony for my own personal benefit. I am, however, a proud United States Army active-duty veteran. I served for 5 years, have been overseas once, and I had a CONUS assignment. My MOS was a 13F, but my MOS code was 13F30L7. I was a Fire Support Specialist, as well as a Forward Observer. I worked with Field Artillery and was attached to the infantry. I was the person with the radio that performed reconnaissance, intel, and provided artillery fire, but I was also able to work with the infantry's mortar platoons, the air force's fighters, and the navy's ships.

I believe the designation of Hawaii as a Purple Heart State would let veterans, especially recipients of the incredibly honorable award be recognized. Bringing light to not only the honor and glory, but the pain and sadness as well. This will not only raise awareness for our veterans, but also preserving and educating our future generations. Given Hawaii's deep military history, we should honor and recognize those who have made and are currently making the selfless decision to risk and sacrifice their lives for the safeguard of our nation. Not only the individuals but as well as the history they fought and fight for. Without our Armed Forces, we may not be living the lives we are living today. Hawaii's involvement with the military first started when it was seen as a strategic location in the Pacific. Following this initial event, the naval base known as Pearl Harbor was secured under the Bayonet Constitution. The very well-known tragedy that took place on December 7th, 1941, known as the "Attack on Pearl Harbor" was a major turning point for the World War, drawing the United States in, and making Pearl Harbor a major military command center and staging area. Now, Hawaii is home to the U.S. Indopacific Command (INDOPACOM) which is the largest unified combatant command, housing major bases across the State.

