

**HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495**

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1382
RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD**

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

**BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD**

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawaii National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1382.

I strongly support SB1382. The passage of this critical bill is vital to providing National Guard servicemembers with the legal protection they need and deserve during times of state emergencies and urgent domestic response situations. These dedicated individuals serve our communities in these high-pressure and stressful conditions with remarkable courage and selflessness. They often put their lives on the line to serve and protect our communities in moments of crisis, such as natural disasters and other emergencies. We must establish this essential legal safeguard to protect them while performing their duties for the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

BG Walter R. Ross, Jr., waltres.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

PHILLIP L. MALLORY
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1382
RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee:

I am Major General Stephen Logan, Adjutant General and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense provides testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1382. This measure amends the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 707-711 and authorizes greater protection for Hawaii National Guard (HING) servicemembers while performing their duty in service to the State. If passed, the bill will authorize any intentional or deliberate act resulting in injury to National Guard members to be classified as a Class C felony, ensuring their service and sacrifices are honored and protected.

The HING places significant emphasis on selflessly serving the State of Hawai'i, but we also want to ensure the welfare of the dedicated women and men who support the State during disasters and emergencies. HING personnel and members from other states on Emergency Management Agreement Compacts (EMAC) serving the State deserve a level of respect and protection when faced with aggressive individuals.

During the 2023 Maui wildfires, HING servicemembers were called upon to secure the impact zones and traffic control points. This support by the HING allowed local law enforcement to focus on their primary duties and other law enforcement responsibilities throughout the county. While most interactions with the HING at these zones and points were very peaceful and without incident, our servicemembers encountered several belligerent individuals, one of whom resorted to violence against a HING servicemember.

As local law enforcement confronts capacity challenges, National Guard members will continue to be called to provide additional support during state disasters and civil disturbances, especially in critical state emergencies. Currently, the legal protections afforded to our National Guard servicemembers are inadequate, as typically assailants who cause bodily harm are only charged with a misdemeanor.

We ask that you please support the safety of our dedicated women and men of the National Guard. They serve a vital role in upholding law and order during times of crisis and should receive protections equal to those granted to other public servants such as fire fighters, emergency medical service providers and law enforcement officers.

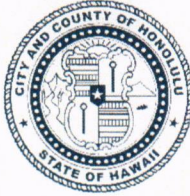
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MG Stephen F. Logan, Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
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MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **TC-BT**

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1382, Relating to the National Guard

I am Thomas Chang, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 1382, Relating to the National Guard.


This bill will provide a crucial safeguard for our National Guard members, shielding them from assaults while they carry out their essential duties. The National Guard members play a pivotal role in maintaining the safety of our communities and country. Signing these measures into law will significantly enhance the protection of National Guard members from potential threats and harm.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1382, Relating to the National Guard.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Thomas Chang, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

SB-1382

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:45:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2025 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Should be a felony absolutely. They are our National Guard and as such their service for us should be respected.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love