

**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 PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

JANUARY 29, 2025

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai, 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 HAWAII'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
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PHILLIP L. MALLORY
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1382
RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

JANUARY 29, 2025

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai, 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.

The HING places significant emphasis on selfless service to the State of Hawai'i, as well as on the welfare of the dedicated women and men who comprise the HING and support the State during critical times.

HING personnel and members from other states serving the State unequivocally deserve the highest 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 concentrate on their primary duties and other vital responsibilities throughout the islands. While most interactions with the HING at these zones and points were very peaceful and without incident, our servicemembers encountered some belligerent individuals, one of whom resorted to violence against a HING servicemember.

As local law enforcement confronts capacity challenges, National Guard members will be called to provide additional support during civil disturbances, especially in critical state emergencies. Currently, the legal protections afforded to our National Guard servicemembers are inadequate, as they can only charge those who cause bodily harm 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 fire fighters, emergency medical service providers and law enforcement officers.

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.

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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HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE TC-BT

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Elefante 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