STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 23 & HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42 URGING CONGRESS AND HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE VETERANS HEALTH AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013 AND SUPPORT THE RECOGNITION AS VETERANS OF THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE March 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts:

I am Maj Gen Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying in SUPPORT of House Resolution 23 and House Concurrent Resolution 42.

Under current law, only Guardsmen and Reservists who have served on federal active-duty for other than training, regardless of their total years in uniform, may call themselves a veteran. Some Guardsmen and Reservists can spend 20 years or more in uniform without being called to federal active service. They are not veterans according to the government's definition.

A section of the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 gives all those with 20 years of service in the Guard and Reserve the honor of being called a veteran. Those who fall under the bill's jurisdiction would receive no benefits other than recognition as veterans.

I ask the committee to pass these resolutions.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HR 47 and HCR 68.

Roxanne Kamalu

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov		
Sent:	Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:39 AM		
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Subject:	Submitted testimony for HR23 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM		

<u>HR23</u>

Submitted on: 3/9/2014 Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	No	

Comments: NAUS HAWAII CHAPTER MEMBERS ECHO OUR NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT FOR THIS RESOLUTION, CALLING ON HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR THE VETERANS HEALTH AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013 AND RECOGNITION, AS VETERANS, OF THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD. At your service, Dennis Egge; Hawaii Chapter President

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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