

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO THE MILITARY

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
March 3, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am supporting the intent of Senate Bill 559 SD1.

This measure will transform the Office of Veterans Services into the Office of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. There are appropriated funds to support the transformation and new responsibilities.

There is a need to review the additional roles and responsibilities to see if existing facilities and staffing can absorb this transformation. Without this review, this transformation could result in reduced services to our veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony supporting the intent Senate Bill 559 SD1.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO THE MILITARY
PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

April 1, 2015

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 559 SD2 HD1.

This measure seeks to provide a military advisor and an assistant advisor to serve as a catalyst for interacting and collaborating with the respective military service components, to explore and provide assessments on existing and future issues between the State and military, and to serve as a liaison on subjects requiring coordination with State and military agencies.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2015-2017.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: SB559, SD2, HD1: RELATING TO THE MILITARY

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kamakana Kaimulua, and I am the Vice President of Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). The Chamber **supports** SB559, SD2, HD1.

In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, the Chamber officially established a military affairs department in 1985. For 30 years the Chamber, through its Military Affairs Council (MAC), has served as the State's liaison in matters relating to the military and has been steadfast in working to protect and preserve the military's presence in Hawaii, promote public awareness and understanding of issues facing the military locally and nationally, and serve as the advocate for military and their families.

As it is noted in the bill, the defense industry is responsible for generating \$14.7 billion into Hawaii's economy, making it the state's second major source of revenues, next to tourism. Moreover, the industry accounts for creating job opportunities for more than 100,000 Hawaii residents that report annual household earnings topping \$8.7 billion annually.

Despite these numbers, the State of Hawaii does not have a governmental entity that can analyze the impact of military spending, develop initiatives to target growth, or identify and advocate for possible funding sources from the federal government to protect local communities from the economic impact of military downsizing or base closure. Without the ability to perform these basic functions, Hawaii is at a considerable disadvantage, when compared to the governmental entities and respective budgets of other states. This became very evident most recently when all states/communities with army bases were called upon to demonstrate support for maintaining an army presence. The MAC was proud to lead the effort, but most definitely could have benefited significantly from state government partner. Competition for an ever-shrinking pool of defense dollars will only continue into the future. We need to remain vigilant.

While the Chamber remains committed to serving in this role, its effectiveness is limited by both funding and its status as a non-profit business organization. Although the Chamber receives some funding from the state through the grant-in-aid program, much of the Chamber's initiatives are self-funded. Additionally, the Chamber is actively searching for grants from federal agencies to fund the possible initiatives listed above, but it would be the State that ultimately would need to develop a formal relationship with these agencies should grant money become available.

While our preference was to place staff in the Office of the Governor to execute the responsibilities outlined in this legislation, we recognize that there are statutory impediments that prevent such a preference from occurring if this legislation is the only viable way to reach the desired outcome. In closing, we humbly ask you to pass this measure and look forward to continuing the discussion.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815



LATE

March 31, 2015

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 559 SD2 HD1
Relating to the Military Before the
House Committee on Finance
Hearing On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 2:00 P.M.
In Conference Room 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.B. 559 SD2 HD1 Establishes and funds a Military Affairs Advisor position who reports directly to the Governor and an Assistant Military Affairs Advisor position in the Department of Defense. (SB559 HD1)

VFW Hawaii concurs with the amendments of the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts that: (1) deleted the provisions relating to expanding the role of the Office of Veterans' Services; (2) established a Military Affairs Advisor position and an Assistant Military Affairs Advisor position within the Department of Defense, with the Military Affairs Advisor reporting directly to the Governor; (3) specified the functions, duties, and powers of the new positions; (4) appropriated funds to establish the new positions in the Department of Defense; and (5) changed its effective date to upon its approval.

VFW Hawaii members would appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure because it would more clearly align the roles of advising the Governor on Military Affairs to new positions within the Department of Defense rather than within an expanded Office of Veterans Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 559 SD2 HD1.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison



LATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

4/1/15
Rm. 308, 2:00 PM

SB 559 SD 2 HD 1
Relating to Military

Chair Luke and Members of this Committee, my name is Max Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels Hawaii, in strong support of SB 559.

While tourism is the largest industry in Hawaii, the United States military is a close second. The presence of the U.S. military in Hawaii is a critical component of the economy of this state. As a member of the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council (MAC), David Carey and Outrigger Hotels has worked for a number of years in assisting the Chamber to protect and preserve the military's presence in Hawaii and to serve as an advocate for the military and their families.

Despite all these years of the private sector creating an advocacy group to work with the military, the State of Hawaii does not have a person or an entity that can do the same.

This bill would create a position that would do just that. A position or person who could help navigate with in government and help the MAC achieve its goal of not only advocating for the military here in Hawaii but in Washington DC

Mahalo for allowing use to testify and urge your support of this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB559 on Apr 1, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

SB559

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of establishing a Military Affairs Advisor position, who reports to the Governor and as a Assistant Advisor position in the DoD,

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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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
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April 1, 2015

LATE

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