

**SB-3335-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 1:38:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantal Lonergan	Civil Air Patrol	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 3335**, Relating to the Civil Air Patrol. This bill proposes to appropriate funds for operational expenses of the Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

As the current Hawaii Wing Commander and retired Hawaii Air National Guard aircraft maintainer, I value the way CAP provides professionally structured education and training to local citizens, ages 12 to retired adults, emphasizing volunteer emergency service.

For many years, the State of Hawaii has assisted the Hawaii Wing with funding to defray training and operational costs. Starting in 2020 and continuing through 2021, the State redirected CAP funding to support COVID 19 activities. As the pandemic has become manageable, CAP seeks to reestablish funding for our mission readiness activities. Our volunteers provide a great return on investment - last year alone, Hawaii Wing delivered \$2,324,621 worth of volunteer service to the state during 7 Search and Rescue Missions, 3 Disaster Relief Missions, many defense intercept, evaluation, 12 training, and state support missions, in addition to providing 369 cadet orientation flights to Hawaii youth.

The Hawaii Wing of Civil Air Patrol has over 600 volunteers, to include 70 aircrew members, 360 emergency responders, 7 repeaters, 81 VHF/FM stations, 20 HF stations, 10 aircraft and 14 corporate vehicles our professionally trained members use for instruction and emergency response. While we receive federal funding for main equipment purchasing, there are many costs to maintaining operational readiness and safe execution of our missions that - without state funding - members self-fund.

In the last 2 years, the Hawaii Wing has continued to carry out its missions through alternative funding sources, donations collected from its members, and local unit fundraisers. These sources are not sustainable or reliable to cover operational costs to effectively maintain equipment and crew training to ensure the operational readiness across the state. We respectfully request you support restoring our funding so we may focus on serving our State.

Most recently, CAP conducted aerial reconnaissance for the State of Hawaii after the severe weather incident in December of 2021. The photographs were instrumental in documenting the damage to roadways and bridges on the Island of Maui and were included in the State's application for a Federal Disaster Declaration. Recent similar missions were conducted on Hawaii Island during the Kilauea volcanic eruptions, statewide for Hurricanes Lane and Olivia,

and on Kauai during the recent flood events as well as Search and Rescue. In situations where the State is threatened by a tsunami, CAP pilots, scanners and ground crews are called upon to use aircraft mounted speakers to alert remote areas not otherwise serviced by the state's emergency alert system.

For over 50 years, Hawaii Wing has been an integral part of the State of Hawaii Tsunami Warning System and historically provided aerial warnings along the shorelines, potentially saving the lives of thousands of residents and visitors. Hawaii Wing provides a critical service to the State covering areas where there are no ground emergency broadcast system sirens, or where sirens are inoperative. There is no governmental agency that does this and there is no back up for the Hawaii Wing Volunteers. Volunteers are on alert 24/7 for Tsunami Warning Response and aircrew keep go bags in their personally owned vehicles to support rapid response to the staging area when Tsunami Warnings are issued. Consequently, it is essential to maintain equipment, aircrew and ground support personnel to competent currency levels required to perform this life saving Tsunami Warning Mission.

Your support is key to our long-term ability to provide quality and reliable Volunteer emergency support services to the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your **SUPPORT of SB 3335**.

Respectfully

CHANTAL LONERGAN, Colonel, CAP

Commander, Hawaii Wing