

SB-927-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:32:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would inappropriately over-extend the influence of O'ahu lawmakers within the balance of the legislature. O'ahu has by far the most military personnel between the counties, and the out-sized military population here would inflate O'ahu's population and weight the reapportionment process to potentially give O'ahu additional seats in the legislature.

In three federal court rulings dealing specifically with Hawai'i's redistricting, the Judiciary has ruled again and again that our policy of extracting non-resident military and their families from the redistricting process is constitutional.

Non-permanent military voters can choose which state in which they want to claim legal residency, and the overwhelming majority declare residency elsewhere. This bill would prioritize the representation of these non-resident military personnel—who almost all have representation in other states—above the representation of Hawai'i residents living in Maui County, for example, where there are almost no military personnel.

Residents that live outside O'ahu County already, rightly, believe that the business of the state is conducted in a way that is heavily "O'ahu-centric." This bill would make that imbalance even worse, to the detriment of Hawai'i residents living on O'ahu's sister islands. Please defer SB927 SD1.