

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 509

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 509, the appointment of Kenneth "Ken" Hara to be the Adjutant General for the Department of Defense.

General Hara has served as the State's Adjutant General since December 2019 and prior to his appointment, served as the State's Deputy Adjutant General from January 2015. In these roles, he helped lead departmental initiatives related to natural disasters including overseeing disaster response efforts with federal, state, county, and private partners across the State and helped to maintain our force structures. General Hara also served as our State's incident commander for the COVID-19 pandemic, working with a wide variety of stakeholders and government officials to safeguard Hawaii's residents and visitors.

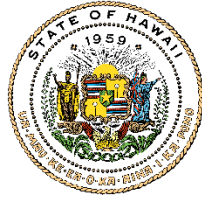
Additionally, General Hara has a distinguished, 38-year career with the Hawaii National Guard, having held command at every level, from a 40-person platoon to the over 5,500 soldiers and airmen of the Hawaii National Guard.

For the reasons above, I am confident in General Hara's ability to continue to serve our State as the Adjutant General for the Department of Defense. His leadership skills, military and emergency management technical expertise, and experience have shown his dedication to the safety and security of Hawaii's people.

Mahalo for your consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 509
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KENNETH HARA FOR ADJUTANT
GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Governor's Message 509 proposes to confirm as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Hara, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara, has held the position of Adjutant General at the Department of Defense since 2019, and has extensive experience with leading military forces, commanding natural disaster response units, and making decisions regarding allocation of resources. The many skills and relationships that Maj. Gen. Hara has built during his years working in military service are exemplary and offer a solid foundation for nomination to the Adjutant General position with the Department of Defense.

In addition, Maj. Gen. Hara has assisted in the facilitation of discussions between the Department and the United States Department of Defense branch commands. His assistance has been instrumental in fostering greater collaboration between the state and federal agencies.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 509.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 8, 2023

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Committee

Date: March 8, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 16 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. 509; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense KENNETH HARA for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense.

General Hara has served the Hawaii National Guard since 2004 and has earned numerous awards and honors during his tenure of honorable service. Since 2019, he has served as the Adjutant General with distinction and has lead us with courage in times of crisis created by storms, volcano eruptions, and most notably as our Incident Commander during the COVID-19 Pandemic. His experience and managerial competence to administer and coordinate timely responses in emergencies is proven as is his ability to communicate effectively with integrity and charisma.

General Hara exemplifies his ohana's respectable legacy in the Hawaii Army National Guard of ka oihana mamua (mission first). As the Adjutant General, General Hara will be able to continue his steadfast service and lead the 5,500 soldiers and airpersons who stand ready to defend Hawaii in times of peril.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 509.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 509
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KENNETH HARA

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference 225 & Via Video Conference

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Major General Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General of the Hawai'i Department of Defense. General Hara has clearly demonstrated that he not only possesses the prerequisite leadership, managerial, crisis management, and interpersonal skills required of the position, but that he also embodies them day in and day out. During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, his leadership was instrumental in the State's ability to effectively manage the ensuing crisis, and as a direct result of his efforts, Hawai'i fared considerably better than other states.

I strongly urge this committee to recommend advise and consent for this exceptional leader and very highly qualified nominee to such a critically important position as the Adjutant General of the Hawai'i Department of Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 509 and the confirmation of Major General Hara.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS (PSM)

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 509
NOMINATION OF MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH HARA, ADJUTANT GENERAL, DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Major General Kenneth Hara for Adjutant General at the Department of Defense.

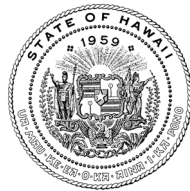
Major General Hara has served as the Adjutant General since 2015, leading departmental initiatives relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and maintaining the force structures. In this role, he oversaw disaster response efforts with state, county, federal, and private partners.

He has had a 37-year career with the Hawai'i National Guard, having commanded at every level from a 40-person platoon to the 5,500 soldiers and airmen of the Hawai'i National Guard.

Hara is a proven leader dedicated to the safety and security of Hawai'i's people. With his leadership skills, military and emergency management technical expertise, and experience, I emphatically support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kāla
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 509

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH HARA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 12-07-2026.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Kenneth Hara to the position of Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD). I am working with Mr. Hara in my professional capacity as Director of Finance.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Hara is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Hara has been serving as the Adjutant General of the DOD since December 2019. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Adjutant General from January 2015 and also has an extensive military background which will benefit the DOD and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 509

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense, Gubernatorial nominee, Kenneth Hara

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DoD).

Given his past leadership roles with DoD, as well as his experience in the Hawaii Army National Guard, I believe Mr. Hara is well-qualified to continue leading DoD. Mr. Hara has already proven to be an effective leader for DoD and I believe he is prepared and committed to continue working with the communities in serving the best interests of the State and am confident that he will continue doing an excellent job.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 509.

Written Only

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/08/2023

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 225 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Public Safety and
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM 0509 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

As the Superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department), I strongly support Governor's Message 509 and the confirmation of Major General Kenneth S. Hara as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

Since 2019, General Hara has served as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, where he has demonstrated his leadership skills and dedication to service. He has previously served in numerous positions of increased authority and responsibility, from platoon leader to the commanding general of the Hawaii National Guard.

General Hara's military education includes a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States War College, completion of the Command and General Staff Officer Course, the Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course, the Dual Status Commanders Course, and the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course, among others. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services from Hawaii Pacific University.

General Hara has served his country overseas, deploying multiple times to Iraq and

Afghanistan to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition to his federal mobilizations, he has served on state missions, including the responses to Hurricane Iniki, the Kilauea volcanic eruption, and Hurricane Lane.

General Hara was a key person the Department worked with during the COVID-19 pandemic. His knowledge and steadfast dedication to the State were integral to helping guide the Department through the many challenges presented by the pandemic.

I urge you to confirm General Kenneth Hara's nomination and allow him the opportunity to continue serving as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense. General Hara's proven leadership, extensive military education, and experience attest to his qualifications for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 509.



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 509
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of
Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Hara

Senate Committee on Public Safety & Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Colonel Kenneth Hara as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD).

Colonel Hara received his BA from Hawaii Pacific University. In 1987, he was commissioned by the Hawaii Army National Guard Officer Candidate School.

With more than 30 years of service, he has served in significant positions of authority with the DOD whereby the DOT worked alongside him to enhance our ability to face challenges that the state must confront. Colonel Hara's strength is that he is keenly aware of the challenges that Hawaii faces today and those that we will most likely face in the future and the critical role that DOD and DOT will play in meeting those challenges.

In view of the increasing importance of disaster and emergency management, we have made concerted efforts with other stakeholders to coordinate, design, and implement effective measures that can substantially abate losses in the event of a disaster. We have full confidence that under Colonel Hara's continued leadership we will make great strides in increasing the state's capacity to prepare for and deal with the threat of a disaster, man-made or natural.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 509

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KENNETH HARA**, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chairperson Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense (DOD). Kenneth brings commander level experience that began in 2004 when he was a Battalion Commander serving in Kapolei, Hawaii, to the present day as the current Adjutant General. His service has taken him to Iraq, Philippines, Afghanistan, South Korea and perhaps other deployments not noted. He has the education, experience and demonstrated his commitment to the position. He is qualified and the right person for the position.

Respectfully requesting your vote to confirm **KENNETH HARA's** nomination to serve as the Adjutant General, DOD.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 8, 2023 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

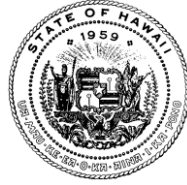
From: Catherine Betts, Director

Re: **Testimony in Support**
GM509, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General,
Department of Defense.

I am Catherine Betts and I serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 509, Gubernatorial Nominee, General Kenneth Hara, as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense.

General Hara's background and extensive military experience qualify him for appointment as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense. General Hara has extensive military and leadership experience, having more than thirty years of military service, in various leadership capacities. His service as the Incident Commander for the COVID-19 response is evidence of his abilities in strategic communications strategy, plan, and execution. During the COVID-19 response, he was an honest and fair leader who was keenly aware of the challenges the State would face and provided clear leadership. In addition, General Hara has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Hawaii National Guard Association Field Grade Officer of the Year.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 509 and General Hara.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Testimony COMMENTING on GM509
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/8/2023

Room Number: CR 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Major
- 3 General Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii. Gen. Hara has a long
- 4 record of service to others that includes management and leadership positions in complex
- 5 organizations.
- 6
- 7 The State of Hawaii and Department of Health relied on Gen. Hara's leadership as Incident
- 8 Commander, in particular his logistical expertise and communication skills, to move Hawaii
- 9 through much of the COVID-19 pandemic. Gen. Hara and Department of Defense personnel
- 10 worked closely with department staff with great professionalism and were reliable partners.
- 11 DOH is confident
- 12
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 14
- 15 **Offered Amendments:** None

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

GENE DEMELLO, JR.
CLAYTON H.W. HEE
MILTON H. KOTSUBO
CAROL K. MATAYOSHI
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 509
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

by
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chairman
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225

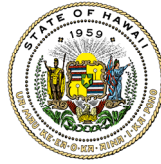
Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Major General (MG) Kenneth Hara to continue as the Adjutant General for the State Department of Defense. As a retiree of the Hawaii National Guard, an appointee of Governor Ige as the Special Master and Acting Director of the Department of Public Safety, and currently as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, I strongly support MG Hara as the Adjutant General.

During the COVID crisis as well as through his military bearing career, MG Hara has demonstrated his command and control with utmost skill and dedication as a military leader. His credentials are impeccable.

I regret I cannot be present to show my physical support but I am out of the State at this time. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for a well respected and demonstrated leader.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 509
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL,

MARCH 3, 2023

Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, and Members of the Committee.

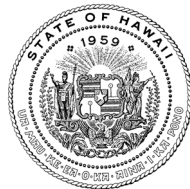
I respectfully request your **SUPPORT** in confirming the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Major General Kenneth S. Hara to serve as the Director of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

I have had the privilege of serving with Major General Hara for over 30 years, most recently as his Deputy Director since December 2019. Major General Hara was instrumental in the State of Hawai'i's response to and recovery from the recent COVID-19 Global Pandemic. While assigned as the state's Incident Commander, Major General Hara effectively built cohesive teams across county, state, and federal networks to develop and employ emergent strategies and technologies. He anticipated needs, organized, and harnessed the resources and training needed to meet those needs so that capabilities existed when required. Major General Hara organized and executed over one hundred million dollars of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding to provide protective equipment, contact tracing, isolation, and sanitization capabilities to the state. He has been an effective leader at the cabinet level and has clearly demonstrated the capacity, technical knowledge and leadership to serve and lead at the most senior levels of government.

His military experience and leadership includes combat deployments to Iraq, Kuwait, and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, where he has demonstrated his ability to defend this nation and its national interests. Major General Hara was also designated as the Dual Status Commander for the 2018 Kilauea Lava Flow that threatened numerous lives and left a path of devastating destruction for many, as well as for Hurricane Lane that posed an immeasurable threat to our state that same year. As the Dual Status Commander, he is afforded command authority over active duty forces, which is a testament to the confidence and regard the leadership of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command has in his abilities.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity in allowing me to testify on Governor's Message 509 in **SUPPORT** of Major General Kenneth S. Hara.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 509

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH HARA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 12-07-2026.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Kenneth Hara to the position of Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD). I am working with Mr. Hara in my professional capacity as Director of Finance.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Hara is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Hara has been serving as the Adjutant General of the DOD since December 2019. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Adjutant General from January 2015 and also has an extensive military background which will benefit the DOD and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAI'I
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 509
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

FRANK J. PACE, ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

MARCH 6, 2023

Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully request your **SUPPORT** in confirming the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Major General Kenneth S. Hara to serve as the Director of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

I have had the privilege of serving with Major General Hara since February 2021 as the Administrator for the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security. Major General Hara has built cohesive partnerships across county, state, and federal organizations, ensuring cohesive inter-agency operations during times of crisis. By anticipating needs, organizing resources, and providing necessary training, he ensures that capabilities are available when needed. He is a proven cabinet-level executive with demonstrated capacity, and leadership to effectively serve and lead at the most senior levels of Hawai'i state government.

His military experience and leadership include multiple combat deployments where he has proven his ability to defend our nation. during domestic crises, Major General Hara has effectively led responses to incidents such as the 2018 Kilauea Lava Flow which had devastating impacts on our communities, as well as the complexities of the multi-year response throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity in allowing me to testify on Governor's Message 509 in **SUPPORT** of Major General Kenneth S. Hara.



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM509
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

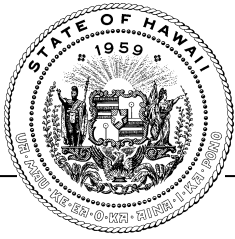
Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to **support** the confirmation of General Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General for the Department of Defense.

General Hara has proven leadership ability. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, the General consistently delivered in keeping Hawai'i safe and moving forward. Hawai'i is fortunate to have such a qualified leader.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) team has enjoyed working with General Hara through many projects including the First Responders Technology Campus (FRTC) and Hawai'i Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies (HCATT) Program. He has also supported events and activities at the Entrepreneurs Sandbox. We look forward to continued engagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote on his behalf.



**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
GM 509

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of
Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Kenneth Hara to serve as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Hara for many years in our previous respective roles.

General Hara has demonstrated his passion, dedication, and expertise in ensuring the safety of Hawai'i. His leadership through the COVID-19 response, Kilauea eruption, and many other emergencies has enabled Hawai'i to weather challenges and recover. While I served as Chief Energy Officer, General Hara and I collaborated on enhancing Hawai'i's energy security through HSEO's role as lead for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 12: Energy. We worked proactively to ensure no disruptions to Hawai'i's energy supply during the pandemic and with federal partners to develop a process and toolkit for protecting Hawai'i's energy infrastructure from physical and cybersecurity threats. As Hawai'i emerges from the pandemic into the recovery phase, his expertise and skill, coupled with his deep respect for civilian leadership, sets an example for all on living the principles of democracy and effective governance.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for General Hara's confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 509
RELATING TO GUBERNATIONAL NOMINEE
MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

KEVIN L. BAGGS, DIRECTOR
HAWAII STATE FUSION CENTER

MARCH 8, 2023

Dear Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully request your **SUPPORT** in confirming the appointment of Gubernational Nominee Major General Kenneth S. Hara to serve as the Director of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

I have had the privilege of serving under General Hara's leadership for the past year and a half in my current role as Director of the Hawaii State Fusion Center. General Hara is a proven leader and has served the State of Hawaii well in his management of the Office of Homeland Security and the Hawaii State Fusion Center.

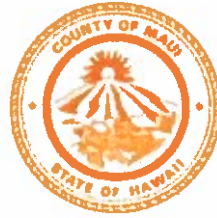
General Hara's experience in military operations and emergency management is exceptional as evidenced in his many deployments to include a tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and civil support operations in response to several natural disasters.

General Hara's leadership abilities and organization clearly justify his appointment to this critical role in ensuring a strong and unified National Guard response in support of the safety and security of the State of Hawaii and I would be remiss in not taking this opportunity to offer support for him in this role.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity in allowing me to testify on Governor's Message 609 in **SUPPORT** of Major General Kenneth S. Hara.

RICHARD BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

HERMAN ANDAYA
Administrator



County of Maui
MAUI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7285
FAX: (808) 270-7275
emergency.management@mauicounty.gov

7 March 2023

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street, Rm 225
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of Governor's Message 509, Appointment of Major General Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

My name is Herman Andaya and I am the Administrator of the Maui Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA") of the County of Maui. It is my distinct honor to submit testimony in SUPPORT of GM 509, requesting the confirmation of Major General Kenneth Hara to the position of Adjutant General of the Department of Defense.

I have known MG Hara for over 12 years and most recently in his current role as the Adjutant General. As the Administrator of MEMA, I have had the privilege of working closely with MG Hara, especially in his role as Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and as Homeland Security Advisor. MG Hara is highly regarded among government officials from the Counties, State and Federal agencies and has demonstrated a keen awareness of our needs with respect to preparation, response and recovery from natural disasters and other emergencies. On many occasions, MG Hara has worked with the County and provided assistance including the deployment of National Guard personnel to areas under threat of a natural disaster, and most specifically in areas most vulnerable due to their isolation, namely, Moloka`i, Lana`i and rural parts of Maui.



*Utilizing Emergency Management Principles, We Protect All Persons
Within the County of Maui to Achieve Whole Community Resilience*



MG Hara appreciates the importance of partnerships during a disaster, especially with the Counties. This was made evident during the COVID pandemic where National Guard troops were deployed to all islands.

A liaison officer was assigned to the County's Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") which ensured that there was an open line of communication between the County and the National Guard leadership. It was during this time that the Guard was extremely helpful in assisting the Counties with supplies, equipment and personnel. We were in constant communications with MG Hara and he saw to it that everything was done to ensure the public's safety on all islands within the State.

The Hawaii State Department of Defense and the State of Hawaii needs Major General Hara's leadership, experience and compassion. For these reasons, I humbly ask that you confirm Major General Kenneth Hara as Adjutant General.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important nomination.

Respectfully,


Herman Andaya
Administrator





**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Governor's Message 509

**Consideration and Confirmation as the Adjutant General of the Department of
Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee Kenneth S. Hara**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Scott Seu
President and CEO
HEI

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

My name is Scott Seu and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) in support of General Hara's nomination as Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii Department of Defense.

I have had the opportunity to engage with General Hara for many years on resilience, emergency, and security issues and have been impressed with his leadership and commitment to strengthening our communities. Hawaiian Electric Company, a subsidiary of HEI, operates critical energy infrastructure for 95% of the State's population, and close coordination with and support from our emergency management and homeland security agencies is central to our ability to withstand natural and human-caused hazards. General Hara is an excellent communicator, collaborative, very inclusive in his style, and very mindful of the critical importance of partnering with key stakeholders.

Accordingly, I strongly support General Hara's nomination as described in GM 509. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 509

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **strongly supports** GM 509 for your favorable consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, Major General KENNETH HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

MG Kenneth S. Hara served more than 30 years in many significant positions of authority with the Department of Defense. He is an integral part of state's defense and emergency team that is with in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

MG Hara has been deployed extensively, in both Federal mobilizations and on several State emergency missions, and has been duly recognized with numerous Decorations and Merits, including his leadership throughout the Kilauea volcanic eruption, Hurricane Lane, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

MG Hara has been an engaged supporter of the MAC and the work we do in Hawaii and in Washington, DC. He provides insightful guidance to INDOPACOM, and the component commands on matters relating to Hawaii, serving as an important bridge between DOD, State DOD and the broader community.



MG Hara will continue to be an asset to the Department of Defense and to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support and recommend his nomination as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense.



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Senate Committee on Public Safety & Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Governor's Message 509
March 8, 2023

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest and oldest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—**strongly supports Governor's Message 509 and the re-appointment of Major General Kenneth S. Hara to serve as adjutant general.**

While serving in this role in the Ige Administration, General Hara was appointed incident commander, tasked with overseeing the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his team did an outstanding job of marshalling the State's resources, organizing the myriad entities that the public health emergency affected, and helping to manage an unprecedented crisis so ably that Hawai'i was often cited as having one of the best COVID-19 responses in the country. This was accomplished through the efforts of his team and his ability to bring together the public and private sectors as well as nonprofit community and organizations like HLTA.

As the head of HI-EMA, he was also tasked with oversight at the airport and oversaw Hawai'i's Safe Travels program—a first-of-its-kind public health program that allowed for the tourism industry to return safely. This brought thousands of people back to their jobs and travelers back to our shores while also keeping our community safe.

The re-start of our industry was timely, and his leadership played a critical role in the survival of our state's top economic sector. In fact, our industry holding him in such high esteem that we honored him and Governor Green at HLTA's 75th anniversary gathering for their outstanding leadership and collaboration throughout the pandemic.

Throughout his career, General Hara has consistently demonstrated the poise, leadership, and wisdom necessary to serve in this role, and we strongly support his re-appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Colton K. Ching
45-173 Namoku St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Governor's Message 509

**Consideration and Confirmation as the Adjutant General of the Department of
Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee Kenneth S. Hara**

Wednesday, March 8, 2022
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Colton K. Ching

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

My name is Colton Ching and I am testifying in support of General Hara's nomination as Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii Department of Defense.

I have worked with General Hara since 2015 when he was appointed Deputy Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, both in my professional capacity and my volunteer capacity as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management (HACEM). As a HACEM member, I have witnessed firsthand General Hara's strong leadership and his commitment to the defense and safety of Hawaii's residents. General Hara has a tireless work ethic and demonstrates a unique ability to collaborate and partner with stakeholders from the military, civilian government, and private sector.

Accordingly, I strongly support General Hara's nomination as described in GM 504. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/2/2023 7:00:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Lowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General for the Department of Defense. He has proven himself as a subject matter expert in the areas of national security and emergency management. Hara is a collaborative leader and a highly effective manager.

GM-509

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:20:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: I had the pleasure with General Hara and his staff. He's an independant thinker and makes good, common sense decisions.

GM-509

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 2:45:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support MG Kenny Hara as the Adjutant General for Hawaii.

GM-509

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 2:56:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pankaj Bhanot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs. My name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of General Kenneth Hara's consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense, for a term to expire at noon on December 07, 2026.

I have known and worked with General Hara during my tenure as the Director and Deputy Director of Human Services. General Hara's educational background, professional experience, character, integrity, fairness, professionalism, desire to serve Hawai'i, and do the right thing for right reasons, makes him an ideal person to lead the Department of Defense during these challenging times.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly urge the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs to recommend General Hara's appointment to the full Senate to be confirmed as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF GARY H. YAMASHIROYA

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

GM 509, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted in **strong support** of Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense.

As the Special Assistant to the Attorney General in the Department of the Attorney General (“ATG”), I observed first-hand the admirable leadership ability General Hara displayed as I attended meetings with him and the HIEMA team, alongside key state agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH). General Hara was the state’s Incident Commander for the COVID-19 response and coordinated a multi-disciplinary team of federal, state and local agencies, primarily the DOH, Department of Transportation (DOT), ATG, lieutenant governor, and county governments for the Safe Travels Hawai’i program.

General Hara’s record of service and his unwavering dedication and loyalty to the people of the United States and Hawai’i makes him an excellent choice to remain as Adjutant General, Hawai’i Department of Defense, which is why I strongly support his nomination.

Colton K. Ching

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Support of Governor's Message 509

Consideration and Confirmation as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee Kenneth S. Hara

Wednesday, March 8, 2022

3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee,

My name is Colton Ching and I am testifying in support of Governor's Message 509, Nomination of General Kenneth Hara's nomination as Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I have worked with General Hara since 2015 when he was appointed Deputy Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, both in my professional capacity and my volunteer capacity as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management (HACEM). As a HACEM member, I have witnessed firsthand General Hara's strong leadership and his commitment to the defense and safety of Hawaii's residents. General Hara has a tireless work ethic and demonstrates a unique ability to collaborate and partner with stakeholders from the military, civilian government, and private sector.

Accordingly, I strongly support General Hara's nomination as described in GM 509. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael S. Vincent

GM 509: CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
OF
KENNETH HARA

Gubernatorial Nominee as Adjutant General, Department of Defense

Before the Senate Committee on

Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Wednesday, March 8, 2023; 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

Testifier: Michael S. Vincent

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Kenneth Hara to continue to serve as the Adjutant General of the Hawai'i Department of Defense.

For over 32 years in my prior position, I had the privilege of representing the Department of Defense, which included working very closely with the Hawaii National Guard, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (fka State Civil Defense), Office of Homeland Security (including the Hawaii State Fusion Center and various law enforcement partners), Office of Veterans Services, and the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy. Working with the members of the Hawai'i Department of Defense for over half of my life has allowed me to work with some of the best people I have ever met and whose only purpose and mission is to serve the people of our state, keep them safe, protect them when threatened by acts of nature and man, and support them in the aftermath of events that challenge the strongest of people. I count myself privileged to have been able to serve with people like General Hara who has dedicated his career to serving our community.

General Hara has continuously served in the Department of Defense since 1986 when he entered Officer's Candidate School with progressively expanding leadership responsibilities with the last eight years leading the Department as the Deputy Adjutant General, Adjutant General, and the Director of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency. He has served Hawai'i well during disasters and emergencies that adversely impacted every single person in the State. His focus and drive have been for the health and safety of the public, providing relief to the suffering, and ensuring that sufficient assets are brought to the aid of those in need.

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF
KENNETH HARA

March 3, 2023

Page 2

One of the difficult, often impossible, parts of leadership is leading in such a way that everyone is happy. One of the things I truly appreciate about General Hara is he leads in such a way that his decisions are made with the big picture in mind, what is needed for complete success, and how to go about doing that so that as many as possible are benefitting in the end. Over the years I would hear about decisions of leadership that were not well accepted by all, but I have never heard anyone speak ill of General Hara, his leadership, or even his leadership decisions. Even if someone did not agree with a decision, it was recognized as a decision with the complete picture and final goal in mind. Having served where I have, I find this a leadership attribute all leaders should strive for.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served with General Hara, to be able to spend time with him on events and issues to help the members of our community and visitors alike, and to have him as an example for all. Hawai'i is a better place because of leaders like him.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support the nomination of Kenneth Hara to continue serving the people of Hawai'i as the Adjutant General and respectfully ask the Committee to move his nomination forward.

Michael S. Vincent

March 2, 2023

Testimony on Governor's Message 509,
Relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Major General Kenneth S. Hara
The Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Submitted by:
Brigadier General Neal S. Mitsuyoshi, P.E.
J4 Mobilization Assistant, Logistics & Engineering Directorate
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am Brigadier General Neal Mitsuyoshi, Mobilization Assistant, Logistics and Engineering Directorate, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of GM509, Gubernatorial Nominee, Major General Kenneth S. Hara.

I have over 33 years of military service, having served in all three components of the Army (Active Duty, U.S. Army Reserves, and the National Guard), and am a current member of the Hawaii Army National Guard and a combat veteran. I have known Major General Hara for nearly 24 years and have had the pleasure of serving with and for him in various capacities where he was the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander, Joint Task Force Commander for the State of Hawaii during the Kilauea lava eruption, as the Deputy Adjutant General for the Department of Defense, State of Hawaii, and on multiple combat tours. I can personally and simply attest that Major General Hara is someone you want on your team. His leadership, experience and expertise has been invaluable to the Hawaii Army National Guard and the State of Hawaii, and the state is luck to have him on their team.

I strongly support Major General Hara's continued service and leadership as the Adjutant General for the Department of Defense. He is a leader with the intellectual capacity, personal courage, and dedicated leadership to ensure the interests and readiness of the National Guard, as well as the security and safety of the State of Hawaii are prioritized and protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Major General Hara's confirmation.

March 8, 2023

TO: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

FROM: Ronald P. Han Jr.
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
95-204 Hoailona Place, Mililani, HI 96789

SUBJECT: GM 509 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Adjutant
General, Department of Defense, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH
HARA, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I would like to express my wholehearted support to MG Kenneth Hara for his confirmation as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense. I have known MG Hara for over 15 years and served with him in uniform and as a member of the State Department of Defense. He is a passionate leader who has earned the respect of his troops and all he comes into contact with. His tireless leadership working with the Executive Leadership in the State and key healthcare partners ensured Hawaii had one of the lowest pandemic infectious rates and death rates in the Nation. He always leads out front and by example. He led the State Joint Forces Headquarters coordinating with multiple military, State, county, and federal agencies on Hawaii island to deal with the lava flow in Pahoehoe while at the same time preparing his troops for deployment to undisclosed hot spots around the world. He thrives in critical and stressful environments and can be counted on to provide the right decisions at the right time. I believe he has all of the qualities necessary to continue his role and responsibilities as the State Adjutant General.

I have also personally worked with MG Hara on several important Veterans initiatives and have found him to be very supportive about helping our Veterans seek better care and services. He has volunteered to be a part of the 50th Commemoration Committee for the Vietnam Conflict and has offered recommendations to make this viable program even stronger. MG Hara was also a very strong proponent of the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home and kept abreast of all milestones. His work in defining and orchestrating the battle operations tempo for the entire State Department of Defense is just one example of how he is trying to streamline our operations to be more efficient and effective and to hopefully drive us to a paperless environment. I am confident he will excel and do very well supporting and shaping our future as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/4/2023 12:58:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curt Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of General Kenneth Hara's nomination as Adjutant General for the Department of Defense. I had the privilege to work with General Hara over the past four years. His leadership during the pandemic was outstanding and the State benefited by his decision making and thoughtful approach to keeping everyone safe. His collaborative spirit brought everyone together and accomplished the goals set. He is a man of integrity that our State needs and has benefited from. Please confirm General Hara as Adjutant General. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/4/2023 1:00:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Hidano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in SUPPORT of GM509 relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Kenneth Hara for Adjutant General, Department of Defense. Mr. Hara possesses broad experience and expertise in this field and is a proven leader. Mr. Hara is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of the administration in an honest, transparent, accountable and responsive manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT o Governor's Message 509.

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT T. MURAKAMI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

3:00PM, CONFERENCE ROOM 225

In consideration of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 509

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Chairperson Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 509 regarding the appointment of Major General Kenneth Hara to the position of Adjutant General for the Department of Defense. I **strongly support** his nomination.

I've had the honor of knowing and working with Major General Hara since 2019 as colleagues on Governor Ige's cabinet. As the Incident Commander for COVID-19 he worked tirelessly to deploy active-duty personnel to ensure the safety of Hawaii's residents, the 450+ essential employees of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the 600+ public workers, legislators, and legislative staff who selflessly stepped forward to process Unemployment Insurance claims or operate the Hawaii based call centers located at the Hawaii Convention Center and at all DLIR offices throughout our State.

Ken's leadership, experience, knowledge, and ability to work with all members of the cabinet, county and federal governments, and our community ensured order and civility throughout the COVID-19 crisis. His actions ensured safe transit and safe working environments for the unprecedented deployment of personnel to support the processing of UI claims.

I wholeheartedly support the gubernatorial nomination for Kenneth Hara to serve as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii and thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:21:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen. Wakai, Vice Chair Sen. Elefante, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Kenneth Hara to serve as the General of the Department of Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 4:17:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Sadayasu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee.

I support the appointment of Kenneth Hara to serve as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD).

Kenneth Hara has served as the Adjutant General and Deputy Adjutant General for the DOD and has led the Department through natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. And with his extensive service and experience with the Hawai'i National Guard, his leadership and expertise will continue to be beneficial to the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 5:23:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Major General Kenneth Hara for continued service as the Adjutant General, Dept of Defense. He did an outstanding job for the State during the COVID pandemic where a few other State agencies were dysfunctional.

Robert G.F. Lee

Major General, US Army (Ret)

Former HI Adjutant General 2003-2011

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 5:42:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
phyllis shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the committee:

I strongly support the appointment of General Kenneth Shiro Hara as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense. I have known and worked with General Hara for almost eight years and he has consistently proved his strong and decisive leadership and excellent communication skills during high level emergencies such as the lava disaster in 2018 and the COVID-19 pandemic since February 2020. General Hara does not shy away from making difficult recommendations and decisions in a timely manner, and he has earned the respect of his colleagues because of his courage and wisdom to defend and protect our people. The State of Hawaii is fortunate that General Hara is willing to continue to serve in the position. Mahalo for your favorable consideration of GM 509 Kenneth Shiro Hara.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 8:53:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryll Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Maj Gen (ret) Darryll Wong. I was the past Adjutant General under Governor Abercrombie. I would like to submit my testimony in strong support of the confirmation of MG Kenny Hara as the Adjutant General. He has worked for me and I have seen his past performance as the Adjutant General. You could not find a better qualified officer in the Hawaii National Guard. Under his leadership he has helped the Hawaii National Guard flourish and help guide the State through the difficult COVID period. I strongly recommend him with no reservation. Any questions you can contact me on my email or on my cell (808) 384-1430.

Respectfully,

Darryll Wong

TESTIMONY OF
KEITH A. REGAN

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023, 3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

GM509

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, I am providing testimony in support of GM509, the confirmation of Kenneth Hara to serve as the Adjutant General, Department of Defense (DOD).

General Hara is a proven leader with exemplary skills and abilities. His background and experiences have prepared him well to serve in the role of Adjutant General. He has demonstrated, throughout his career, the unwavering courage and willingness to take on challenges, find solutions, and execute strategies that have kept our State safe in times of crisis.

As the former Managing Director of Maui County, I had firsthand experience working closely with General Hara through some of the most difficult and severe natural disasters faced by our Emergency Management team. His clear direction and commitment to supporting the neighbor islands in times of crisis showed his true character and commitment to community. There was never a time when we felt unsupported or ignored under his leadership. When we called upon his team for assistance, they were there without question and ready to help us get back on our feet.

As the former Chief Administrative Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, I once again had the opportunity to observe General Hara's take-charge attitude and systematic approach to handling the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused tremendous and devastating impacts throughout Hawaii but it was thanks to his quick thinking, strategic mindset that a plan was developed, put into action, and lives were saved. There is no doubt in my mind that his leadership had a direct result in keeping all of us as safe as we possibly could be throughout this crisis.

General Hara has the education and experience to continue to lead us for many years to come. I can think of no one better to serve in this role than him. I know, based on my many discussions with senior leaders at the County and State that they have the utmost trust and faith in his abilities, as do I.

It is for these reasons that I humbly ask you to please support the confirmation of Kenneth Hara as the Adjutant General of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Regan
Honolulu, Hawaii

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION, JR.

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

Governor's Message (GM) 509

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I strongly support the nomination of General Kenneth Hara to serve as Adjutant General, Department of Defense.

I have known and worked with General Hara for several years, and he continues to demonstrate competency of the broad range of issues facing the military and civil defense here in Hawaii, across the nation and globally. His experience as Deputy Adjutant General and Adjutant General in the past administration, leading the Kilauea volcanic eruption and Hurricane Lane disaster response, and being one of the State's leaders during the COVID-19 Pandemic, shows that he is an individual that we can trust and need in State Government to ensure that our residents and visitors alike remain safe and sound.

General Hara possesses that right demeanor and collaborative nature to lead our State's Department of Defense. He has gained my trust as a colleague, and I have the utmost faith that he will continue to serve our State in the highest capacity.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of General Kenneth Hara as Adjutant General, Department of Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 509.

Aloha Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

My name is Ryker Wada and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of General Kenneth Hara for their confirmation as Adjunct General and Director of the Department of Defense

I have been fortunate to have had experience both personally and professionally with Ken and have found him to be compassionate, intelligent and hard working. His skillset lends itself to success in this difficult position which is evidenced by his prior performance and success in this position. I wholeheartedly believe they will serve the State of Hawaii to the best of his abilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair,
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair,
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

From: Nadine Ando

**Re: G.M. 509, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH HARA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE
12-07-2026**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony to whole-heartedly support the confirmation of Kenneth Hara as Adjutant General, State of Hawaii Department of Defense for a term to expire on 12/7/26.

General Hara has served as the State's Adjutant General since his appointment in 2019. Prior to that, he served as the Deputy Adjutant General from 2015-2019. He has more than demonstrated his ability to serve the State of Hawaii in this important position. His extensive military background and leadership experience with the Hawaii National Guard as Chief of the Joint Staff, Commander, Deputy Commander and Deputy G3 before his appointment to the Adjutant General office demonstrates his unquestionable qualification to continue to serve the State as Adjutant General for another term.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**TESTIMONY BY JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
REGARDING**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 509 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH HARA, FOR TERM TO EXPIRE
DECEMBER 7, 2026.**

**Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
March 8, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Teleconference**

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

I have had the honor and privilege of working closely with General Hara over the past four years.

I know many of us would agree that during COVID he helped the State, save many lives and implemented a plan, working alongside many government and private sector agencies to keep people traveling throughout the state, and from domestic locations to Hawaii.

I saw firsthand what he and the National Guard did on Kauai to enforce the Safe Travel rules with those stationed at the airport and making home visits to quarantine visitors and residents.

Approving General Hara's nomination as the Adjutant General for the Department of Defense will provide proven leadership and experience for the Department.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Testimony of Ku`uhaku Park
Sr. VP, Government and Community Relations
Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
In Support of GM509
Before the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) supports GM509, which nominates General Kenneth Hara to serve as Adjutant General of the Department of Defense. General Hara helped guide the State of Hawaii through the COVID-19 pandemic. His decades of experience in the military give him unique insight into the operations of the State of Hawaii.

Matson has worked with General Hara on emergency response and maritime issues and have found him to be exceptional in both his decision-making abilities and in the application of strategies. He has always been open, fair, and transparent. We believe he will execute his duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

GM-509

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 11:20:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike McCartney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha: Chair Wakai and the honorable members of the Public Safety-Intergovernmental-Military Affairs Committee.

It is my honor to submit testimony in strong **support** of GM 509 - Kenneth Hara to another term as Hawaii's Adjutant General. I recall first meeting him during 2011 in response to various natural disasters like the tragic Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. His dedication to serve has given him a lifetime of extensive community engagement, combat, crisis management and leadership experience. He exemplifies service with a strong sense of character and ability. Lieutenant General Hara lives the motto of Duty, Honor, Country along side with the Aloha Spirit. My family and all of Hawaii can count on him to serve, protect and defend as the Adjutant General of the Hawaii National Guard. He has and will continue to make us proud of his record and service.

Mahalo for your consideration as you carry out your constitutional duty to advise and consent on his nomination.

With My Aloha, Mike McCartney (HRS 5-7.5)

note: please forgive any errors in spelling, grammar, usage and structure in this testimony in support of the nominee.