

Testimony of Col. Haruguchi

27 February 2024

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HAWAII WING HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
419 Lele St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819



27 February 2024

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2241  
RELATING TO CIVIL AIR PATROL**

**TESTIMONY TO:  
REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR  
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**BY:  
COLONEL STACY HARUGUCHI  
COMMANDER, HAWAII WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL**

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Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT, AS AMENDED** HB 2241, Relating to the Civil Air Patrol. This bill proposes an appropriation of funds for operational expenses of the Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary of the United States Air Force and is composed of volunteers across the country, which includes Civil Air Patrol's Hawaii Wing. Its mission includes emergency service, aerospace education and cadet programs. Last year alone, Hawaii Wing delivered \$3,006,935 worth of volunteer hours to the state during 10 Search and Rescue Missions, 2 Disaster Relief Missions, and 7 air defense intercept training and evaluation missions, and state support missions besides providing 495 cadet and Air Force Junior ROTC orientation flights.

The Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has over 700 volunteers, 42 aircrew members, 360 emergency service qualified members, 7 radio repeaters, 81 VHF/FM radios, 4 HF radio stations, a Starlink terminal, 10 aircraft and 14 corporate vehicles distributed between all four counties at 10 different operating locations. Although the Federal Government provides approximately \$5 million worth of equipment and the funds for maintenance, it does not cover overhead costs associated with facility maintenance, utility costs, phone and internet services, some state specific training such as tsunami warning missions, and facilities and supplies used

as part of our programs. In years past, the State of Hawaii was gracious enough to assist CAP with these costs. In 2019, the State redirected CAP funding to support critical COVID 19 activities. When attempts to restart funding for CAP, obstacles were encountered due in part to Civil Air Patrol's inability to qualify for grants from the legislature due to limitations imposed on grantees pursuant to HRS 42F-103. CAP seeks to reestablish funding for our mission, which requires in part that the legislature amend HRS 42F-103 to allow Civil Air Patrol to receive grants from the legislature.

Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing, currently operates at a deficit, and without additional funding it will be difficult for Civil Air Patrol to continue to provide our three missions to the people of the State of Hawai'i: 1) Emergency Services, 2) Aerospace Education, and 3) Cadet Programs. It is for this reason that we ask the legislature to amend HRS 42F-103 to allow Civil Air Patrol to receive grants from the legislature.

Over 80 years ago, Civil Air Patrol was created to allow civilians to contribute aviation related services on a volunteer basis to supplement America's armed forces, including utilizing civilian aviation resources to aid America in World War II by patrolling our coasts and borders for enemies, submarines, and other threats. Over the years, this role has evolved to now include providing emergency services to our local emergency management agencies and aerospace education to youth, providing education and access to aviation, aerospace and STEM related careers.

The Hawaii Wing has provided critical services to the State of Hawaii in times of emergencies and has worked closely with local emergency management agencies in all four counties and the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. We have conducted missions that included, but not limited to: Search and rescue, damage assessments, aerial photographs of impacted areas, alerts and notifications, and transportation of supplies to remote locations.

Most recently, CAP conducted numerous missions after the Lahaina Fires. Missions included damage assessments, the loan of a Starlink terminal to augment internet availability in Lahaina, aerial photography and alerts and notifications via CAP aircraft with loudspeakers to provide notification in areas that were not serviced by cellular or ground based loudspeakers. In addition, CAP members volunteered for approximately 2 months in the Maui County Emergency Operations Center acting as the "air boss" and coordinating FAA flight restrictions over Lahaina. Additional tasks considered, but thankfully not required, included acting in coordination with the Maui Fire Department and Army National Guard as aerial fire spotters during high or extreme fire conditions. Although CAP is willing to support, our lack of training as fire spotters and lack of interoperable radio equipment with some agencies limits our utility.

In situations where the State is threatened by a tsunami, CAP aircrew 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 is poor cell coverage, no ground emergency broadcast system sirens exist, or where sirens are inoperative. Governmental agencies will be stretched to their limit during an actual tsunami due to the compressed response times involved. Consequently, it is essential to maintain equipment and personnel to competent currency levels required to perform this life saving mission. Your support is key to our long term ability to provide quality and reliable Volunteer emergency support services to the State of Hawaii.

Civil Air Patrol's cadet programs are also provide an extremely valuable service to the children of Hawai'i. Through our 10 squadrons located throughout the state, Civil Air Patrol provides cadets with leadership training, aerospace education, access to flight experience and flight training funded by the US Air Force, and pathways to STEM and aviation related careers.

In order to facilitate our ability to fulfill these missions, I request that the following amendments be included in the bill:

1. HRS 42F-103(b) be amended by adding the following as a new section HRS 42F-103(b)(3) to read as follows:

(3) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to any incorporated agency or instrumentality of the United States wholly owned by the United States or by a corporation wholly owned by the United States."

2. HRS 261-6(a) be amended to read as follows:

"(a) [Beginning] Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, including chapter 42F, beginning in fiscal year [1988-1989 and in accordance with chapter 42F,] 2024-2025, the sum of \$190,600 annually or so much thereof as may be necessary shall be [granted] appropriated by the legislature from the general fund to carry on the operations and defray the expenses of the Hawaii, wing civil air patrol; provided that not less than [\$3,000] \$10,000 shall be allocated to each Hawaii based civil air patrol unit that meets minimum requirements established by national headquarters and has demonstrated its capability to respond to emergencies within the State. Beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026, funds required to be appropriated under this subsection shall be included in the department of defense's annual budget request."

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT AS AMENDED** HB 2241, Relating to Civil Air Patrol.