

JAN 23 2025

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that section 121-12(a),  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, currently mandates that the Hawaii army  
3 national guard and air national guard each be headed by an  
4 assistant adjutant general, with the rank capped at brigadier  
5 general. While most states' national guard components are  
6 federally authorized to be headed by officers with a maximum  
7 rank of brigadier general, the Department of the Air Force has  
8 authorized the Hawaii air national guard to be led by an officer  
9 with the rank of major general, reflecting the organization's  
10 size and complexity. Additionally, the chief of staff position  
11 for the Hawaii air national guard is federally authorized at the  
12 grade of major general.

13           Accordingly, the purposes of this Act are to:

14           (1) Allow the head of the Hawaii air national guard to  
15           hold the rank authorized by the Department of the Air  
16           Force, which is currently major general;

17           (2) Provide the adjutant general with the flexibility to  
18           assign either the chief of staff or the assistant

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1           adjutant general to lead the Hawaii air national  
2           guard; and

3           (3) Authorize the pay and allowances for the chief of  
4           staff of the Hawaii air national guard to be  
5           determined according to the pay tables of the regular  
6           air force of the United States.

7           SECTION 2. Section 121-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8           amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9           "(a) The headquarters staff of the national guard shall be  
10          composed of the army national guard component, which shall  
11          include a selective service section, and the air national guard  
12          component. The headquarters shall be staffed by ~~[such]~~ the  
13          officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel, in the  
14          grades and branches of service as may be authorized by the  
15          secretaries of the army and the air force. The army division  
16          ~~[and the air division]~~ shall ~~[each]~~ be headed by an assistant  
17          adjutant general ~~[, who shall, while holding the office, have a~~  
18          ~~grade no higher than brigadier general]~~. The air division shall  
19          be headed by a chief of staff or an assistant adjutant general,  
20          as determined by the adjutant general. The assistant adjutants  
21          general ~~[,]~~ or chief of staff, when in the full-time employment  
22          of the department of defense, may receive the pay and allowance

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1 of their grade as fixed by the tables of the regular army or air  
2 force of the United States."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect  
6 on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

9

BY REQUEST

# S.B. NO. 1381

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Air National Guard; Hawaii Army National Guard; Hawaii National Guard; Department of Defense; Rank and Title of Component Heads

**Description:**

Allows the commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard to hold the rank authorized by the Department of the Air Force. Provides the Adjutant General with the flexibility to assign either the Chief of Staff or the Assistant Adjutant General to lead the Hawaii Air National Guard. Authorizes the pay and allowances for the Chief of Staff of the Hawaii Air National Guard to be determined according to the pay tables of the Regular Air Force of the United States. Effective 7/1/2025.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Defense

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD.

PURPOSE: To allow the commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) to hold the rank authorized by the Department of the Air Force; to authorize the Adjutant General to identify either the Assistant Adjutant General (Air) or Chief of Staff to head the HIANG; and to authorize the pay and allowances for the HIANG Chief of Staff to be fixed by the tables of the regular air force of the United States.

MEANS: Amend subsection 121-12(a) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: While most states are authorized the highest rank of Brigadier General for the air component head of their national guard, the Department of the Air Force authorized the rank of Major General for the HIANG because of the size and complexity of the Hawaii organization.

This bill will allow the Adjutant General to assign an appropriately qualified Major General to lead the HIANG under its current structure. Authorizing the head of the HIANG to be either the Assistant Adjutant General (Air) or the Chief of Staff will allow the Adjutant General to align state law with what is authorized by the federal Secretary of the Air Force and the flexibility to assign a general officer at the appropriate rank to lead the HIANG. The proposed amendments also allow the pay and allowances of the Chief of Staff to be determined according to the tables of the Regular Air Force of the United States when employed full-time by the State.

Impact on the public: The improved structure of the HIANG will enhance command, control, and administration, which will lead to a better response to any situation.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This administrative change will not affect other state agencies but will lead to improved integration and coordination with the National Guard Bureau.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: DEF 110 AC.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025.