

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 07 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1381
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 1381 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow the Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard to hold the rank authorized by the Department of the Air Force, which is currently Major General;
- (2) Provide 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; and
- (3) Authorize 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.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Defense and Hawaii Air National Guard.

Your Committee finds that most states only authorize a Brigadier General to serve as the highest rank in the Hawaii Air



National Guard. However, the Department of the Air Force authorized the State to have a Major General for the air component, due to the size and complexity of the Hawaii Air National Guard. Under the current law, the Assistant Adjutant General is the head of the air division and as such is the only one who can sign orders related to that designation. Due to this limitation, the Major General authorization was assigned to the Chief of Staff position. Most Hawaii Air National Guard instructions refer to the Assistant Adjutant General as the leader of the Hawaii Air National Guard. However, due to the Assistant Adjutant General rank ceiling of Brigadier General in the state of Hawaii, the Chief of Staff leads the Hawaii Air National Guard as a Major General.

Your Committee finds that this incongruity leads to confusion in the chain of command and could lead to missteps in administrative and operational taskings. This measure will streamline the chain of command and provide the Adjutant General the flexibility of appointing either the Chief of Staff or the Assistant Adjutant General to head the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1381, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1381, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs,


BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1381	Committee Referral: PSM, WAM	Date: 1-31-25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes