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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2291 HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I NATIONAL GUARD  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

BY  
MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 16, 2026

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

The Department of Defense provides written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2291 HD1.

This bill provides needed changes for the continued evolution of the Hawai'i National Guard (HING) Youth Challenge Programs. Specifically, it will improve administrative efficiency by streamlining the processing and tracking of pay and personnel actions, as well as standardizing hiring procedures, once all program positions are consolidated under a single Program ID. It also renames the HING Youth Challenge Program to the "Hawaii National Guard Civil-Military Program" and codifies "Nā Kula Alaka'i" (Leadership Academies) as the Hawaiian name for the program. This will allow the department to effectively manage wage constraints imposed by the federal government (under the Master Youth Cooperative Agreement (MYCA), the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Manual (CNGBM), and the Department of Defense (DoDI) Instruction 1402.05), improve oversight of the program and promote consistent program standards, and align the program nationally with the Office of the Secretary of Defense,

Additionally, this proposal strengthens the integration of military training resources with community partnerships to enhance national readiness and expand access to educational and workforce development opportunities for Hawaii youth, adults, and Veterans.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for your support with this measure.

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