



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

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SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Monday, March 16, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully submits testimony **in support** of SB3240 SD1. MACRO serves as the State's day-to-day connector between military commands, state and county agencies, schools, businesses, and community stakeholders helping partners navigate issues that rarely fall within a single agency's lane, from installation infrastructure needs and land coordination to workforce alignment and economic opportunity planning. As defense activity and federal investment in Hawai'i continue, this centralized coordination role has become increasingly essential to keeping projects moving efficiently and ensuring the benefits reach local communities.

In practice, this work is highly operational. MACRO has supported efforts that connect local companies with federal buyers and contracting pathways, helped align community college and training programs with shipyard and industrial workforce needs, coordinated with installations and state agencies to address infrastructure and community interface challenges, and convened cross-sector partners to streamline communication during high-impact projects. These examples demonstrate how targeted capacity within one office can remove barriers, accelerate timelines, and translate federal activity into jobs, contracts, and tangible outcomes for Hawai'i residents. Additional resources would allow us to scale these efforts statewide and respond more proactively as opportunities arise.

Specifically, this funding would support:

- (1) business readiness and compliance assistance to help Hawai'i companies navigate federal procurement and cybersecurity requirements;
- (2) strengthened education-to-career pathways through partnerships with schools, community colleges, and training providers that connect residents to internships, apprenticeships, and direct placement in defense and industrial base careers; and
- (3) targeted initiatives that grow in-state manufacturing, repair, and sustainment capacity, reducing reliance on off-island supply chains and keeping federal dollars circulating locally.

We are grateful for any support in MACRO's coordination and workforce capacities, as this measure would improve public service, economic resilience, and Hawai'i's ability to capture and retain federal opportunities that benefit our communities statewide. Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued support of efforts that strengthen both our readiness and local economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 16, 2026, at 9:00AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference**

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 3240 Senate Draft 1 (SB3240 SD1), which appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO) to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

SB3240 SD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military & Defense. The military constitutes a significant portion of the State's economic and workforce landscape, supporting thousands of local jobs, small businesses, and education-to-career pathways. Maintaining strong, consistent community relations is essential to ensuring a positive and productive working relationship between the military and the public.

The Chamber supports the mission of MACRO: "... to promote positive relationships between Hawai'i's military and civilian sectors by fostering mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues important to both the United States Department of Defense and the State of Hawai'i." Given Hawai'i's geopolitical importance, the Chamber believes supporting a positive military-community relationship is especially important as international relations, technologies, and workforce needs continue to evolve. MACRO's dedication to creating opportunities for workforce development, contributing towards emergency preparedness, community leadership through infrastructure improvement, and increasing access to contract opportunities for local businesses makes the Office a powerful agent within the business landscape. Such efforts in community partnership result in improvements in economic resilience and community resilience at large. An investment in MACRO is an investment in a resilient economy marked by military partnership.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3240 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawai'i's economy and securing Hawai'i's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030

Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street - Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone (808) 935-7178 - Fax (808) 961-4435 - Email exec@hicc.biz - www.hicc.biz

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Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military & Community Relations Office - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 350 businesses and individual members primarily on the east side of Hawai'i Island, I am writing in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3240 SD1 (SB3240 SD1)**. This measure appropriates funds to the Military and Community Relations Office (within DBEDT) to enhance intergovernmental coordination, communication, and program administration for defense-related activities, including workforce development, local business readiness, and in-state advanced manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

Hawai'i's economy benefits greatly from federal defense investments, yet structural challenges persist. According to UHERO, when accounting for local living costs, income and productivity growth in Hawai'i have consistently fallen behind the national average. Maximizing the impact of defense resources requires strong coordination between state and federal partners, alignment of workforce development programs, and expanded in-state sustainment capacity.

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an important role in bridging Hawai'i's civilian and military sectors. Through partnerships with industry, education, and government, MACRO helps connect local businesses to federal contracting opportunities, supports workforce training aligned with defense industry needs, and strengthens communication across agencies and stakeholders.

SB3240 SD1 also aligns with the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i's 2030 Blueprint for Hawai'i's Military & Defense policy pillar, which emphasizes leveraging defense-related opportunities to grow local businesses, create high-wage jobs, and strengthen the state's industrial base. Funding MACRO will support workforce development, improve business readiness, and expand in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce respectfully asks you to **PASS Senate Bill 3240 SD1**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 411 or via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 3240 SD1.

The 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.

Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an essential role in strengthening coordination between Hawai'i's military commands, state and county agencies, educational institutions, and community partners. As federal investment and defense activity continue to grow, the need for a centralized, trusted point of coordination has become increasingly important to ensure projects advance efficiently and that benefits reach Hawai'i's residents.

MACRO's work directly supports Hawai'i's economic resilience and workforce development. The office helps local companies navigate federal procurement pathways, aligns education and training programs with defense-sector workforce needs, and facilitates communication among agencies during high-impact projects. These efforts translate federal activity into local jobs, contracts, and long-term opportunities for Hawai'i's communities.

SB 3240 SD1 provides the resources needed to expand this work statewide and ensure Hawai'i continues to benefit from its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. For these reasons, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony in Support of SB3240, SD1
Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO)**

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair; Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Public Safety

Hearing: March 16, 9:00 a.m.

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

My name is Leimomi Khan, and I respectfully submit testimony in support of SB3240, SD1.

I understand that the work of the Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism is to help coordinate workforce development and economic opportunities related to the presence of the military in Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i occupies a strategic location in the Pacific, and the headquarters of the **United States Indo-Pacific Command** is located here because real-world security challenges exist in our region. While many people understandably hope for a peaceful world, the reality of this century is that geopolitical tensions and military threats exist, and Hawai‘i sits at the center of that environment.

Let me be clear: I do not support war. Like many people in Hawai‘i, I believe that peaceful solutions should always be pursued first and exhausted whenever possible. But we must also recognize our responsibility to protect our islands and our people if peaceful efforts fail.

At the same time, the presence of the military in Hawai‘i is a reality of our time. Measures such as this help ensure that Hawai‘i’s residents are prepared for the civilian, technical, administrative, and professional opportunities associated with that presence.

SB3240 SD1 focuses on preparing Hawai‘i residents for civilian careers connected to military installations—ranging from skilled trades such as electricians, sheet metal workers, mechanics, and engineers, to administrative, technical, and professional positions that help operate and support these facilities.

I also understand the concerns raised by others. Incidents such as the Red Hill fuel contamination crisis and long-standing concerns about environmental impacts at places like **Pōhakuloa Training Area** remind us that the military must be accountable and respectful of the lands and communities of Hawai‘i.

For transparency, I note that I worked for the United States Air Force for 44 years and held a Top Secret clearance. During that time, I saw firsthand both the security challenges facing our region and the ways in which military service and military-related employment helped many young men and women obtain education, job training, housing, healthcare, and valuable skills that supported their futures.

In my view, this measure reflects a practical reality: the military is present in Hawai‘i, and the question before us is how we ensure that Hawai‘i’s residents are prepared for the civilian workforce opportunities associated with that presence.

For these reasons, I respectfully support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Testimony of Laulani Teale, MPH
Ho'opae Pono Peace Project**



In OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD1

March 14, 2026

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, and Members,

Ho'opae Pono Peace Project is a cultural peace resource focused on building cooperative solutions in the context of Aloha 'Āina, human rights, and genuine perpetuation of Indigenous well-being and cultural continuity.

Our testimony on all drafts of SB3240 can be summed up in one word:

‘A‘OLE.

Hawai'i is a peaceful, neutral country under a prolonged occupation by the United States of America. As legislators during a poignant moment in history, it is your duty to work with all involved to find peaceful ways to set this great wrong right, while safeguarding the well being of all of the people of Hawai'i.

Brainwashing children with militarism is a paradigm that is out of date and not beneficial to their well-being. Further economic dependence on colonial revenue of any kind is not beneficial to the people of Hawai'i, and dependence on revenue that increases the likelihood of Hawai'i being once again targeted by the enemies of the United States makes all the revenue in the world utterly meaningless.

Kupuna Pīlahi Pākī, who was the personal teacher of several of my close mentors, once famously prophesied that “*The world will turn to Hawai'i as they search for World Peace because Hawai'i has the key -- and that key is ALOHA.*” The time she spoke of is NOW. We, Hawai'i, must show the world the path out of war, out of ever-escalating militarism, and into a path of restoration and pono based on ALOHA.

For these reasons and more, Ho'opae Pono Peace Project asks that this measure please be held in this committee.

We are available as a peace resource for continued dialogue in the building of genuine understanding based on true respect, peace, and pono. Please contact me at any time.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laulani Teale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "L" and a decorative flourish at the end.

Laulani Teale, MPH
Coordinator, Ho'opae Pono Peace Project
<https://www.eapono.org>



Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety

Friday, March 13, 2026
9:00AM Conference Room 411

RE: SB3240 SD1 DBEDT/Military and Community Relations Office - Oppose

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce, we submit this testimony to oppose SB3240 SD1. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, entrepreneurs, creatives, and sole proprietors across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

We recognize that the military has long been part of Hawai'i's economic landscape, and constructive dialogue between military and civilian sectors is important. At the same time, many small businesses are primarily seeking fair access to opportunities, transparency in contracting, and an economic strategy that strengthens Hawai'i's diversification and long-term resilience, rather than increasing reliance on any single sector.

According to the State's own Military and Community Relations Office, Department of Defense spending already accounts for roughly 8.3 percent of Hawai'i's GDP, making it the second-largest sector in the state economy, while military activities utilize approximately 221,000 acres of land statewide. These figures illustrate that the military presence in Hawai'i is already substantial.

SB3240 also emphasizes connecting K-12 education and workforce pathways to defense-related careers. While workforce development is critically important, Hawai'i's education and workforce systems should prepare students for a broad range of industries that meet the everyday needs of our communities, including energy, housing, agriculture, healthcare, arts and culture, and local entrepreneurship.

Additionally, strong military-community relationships must include

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

transparency, accountability, and protection of public resources, particularly in light of recent events such as the Red Hill water contamination crisis, which highlighted the importance of safeguarding public health, water resources, and community trust.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce believes Hawai'i's economic future will be strongest when public policy supports a diversified, locally rooted, and resilient economy that complements existing sectors while building new ones.

Respectfully submitted.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

March 13, 2026

9:00 AM

Conference Room 411

In **OPPOSITION** to **SB3240 SD1**: RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **OPPOSES** SB3240 SD1, which would appropriate state general funds to support the Department of War's priorities for our islands, without considering the unaddressed and significant economic, environmental, and human costs of the military's activities in Hawai'i.

As a preliminary matter, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i questions the overall effectiveness of the military and community relations office (MACRO) in "promot[ing] positive relationships between Hawai'i's military and civilian sectors by fostering mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues important to both the United States Department of Defense and the State of Hawai'i." In the year and a half that it has been in existence, MACRO's social media account has garnered only 197 followers, and all but 8 of its 166 Instagram posts appear to have received less than 10 "likes," with the vast majority of posts receiving less than 5(!). MACRO has also failed to recognize, much less address, major ongoing concerns raised by both the civilian and military communities, and that are actively eroding community trust and respect for the U.S. military as an institution. Notably, comments on issues ranging from the continued neglect of individuals impacted or threatened by drinking water contamination, to suspected and known lead and other toxic exposures, to ongoing environmental injustices and cultural suppression, on MACRO's official state social media page also appear to have been censored, in violation of the first amendment. **Investing more state taxpayer dollars in a state entity that has such a proven record of ineffectiveness would be questionable even without considering the costs that the military it serves has inflicted on our islands and future generations.**

With regards to the latter point, the Sierra Club also has significant concerns regarding the expenditure of additional taxpayer dollars to support the use our islands as a manufacturing and human resource hub for the U.S. military, when we already must deal with myriad quantifiable and unquantifiable military impacts to our economy, environment, public health, cultural integrity, food security, housing, and social fabric. These include:

- The \$1.2B in costs incurred as a result of the Red Hill catastrophe, that the Navy refuses to compensate the Board of Water Supply and its ratepayers for;



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

- The nearly unquantifiable physical, emotional, reputational, and professional harms inflicted on both military and civilian families from the Navy's own admitted negligence at Kapūkakī, that the Navy is actively seeking to avoid financial liability for in the federal court system;
- The lack of any meaningful progress in remediation research and investments over four years since the 2021 contamination of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, notwithstanding a unified call by state and county leaders for the Navy to fully clean up its mess;
- The Navy's years-long refusal to meet with the Red Hill Community Representation Initiative despite its own commitments made in the 2023 Red Hill Administrative Consent Order;
- The Navy's refusal to allow the City and County of Honolulu to consider using its property for a much-needed municipal landfill, forcing the City to either threaten another drinking water aquifer with landfill-based contamination or perpetuate the environmental injustices created by the Waimānalo Gulch landfill;
- The continued use of potable water to irrigate military golf courses;
- The continued use of significant areas of our islands' very limited land base for military golf courses and other recreational facilities, from which the general public is also excluded;
- The continual discovery of carcinogenic PFAS "forever chemicals" in ground and drinking water sources adjacent to or downgradient from military installations notorious for their regular releases of PFAS-based fire-fighting foam during training and fire response activities;
- The thousands upon thousands of acres of lands – including lands held by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as well as ancestral lands considered sacred by Native Hawaiians – rendered unusable by the presence of unremediated unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, other heavy metals, and transgenerational toxins;
- The ongoing potential lead exposure threatening thousands of children and others who live, attend school, or frequent the 'Ewa Beach area surrounding the U.S. Marine Corps' Pu'uloa Range Training Facility;
- The continued public health and safety threat posed by the unremediated former military landfill underlying Radford High School;
- The continued public health and safety threat posed by dozens of other formerly used defense sites underlying or adjacent to schools, parks, beaches, and other areas frequented by local communities;
- The failure to facilitate the provisions of Pub. L. 88-233, requiring the relinquishment of federal lands, stolen during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, that are no longer needed by the federal government, including military-held lands now used for purely recreational or other non-military purposes;
- The continual introduction of ecologically, agriculturally, culturally, and economically devastating invasive species, from the coconut rhinoceros beetle,



to fireweed, to the octocorals that have now spread across dozens of acres in Pearl Harbor;

- The continual destruction of rare, sensitive, and centuries-old deepwater ecosystems from the intentional sinking of military ships during biannual SINKEX exercises;
- The unremediated contamination of the sacred summit of Haleakalā from a fuel spill that occurred 3 years ago, despite immediate and repeated promises to heal this desecration;
- The renewed and traumatic push for continued industrial development on Haleakalā's summit, to serve the military's space warfare ambitions;
- The continued destruction and desecration of Kaula with bombing and other live-fire exercises that are proposed to nearly double under a current Navy proposal;
- The displacement of untold numbers of Hawai'i families due to the substantial housing allowances given to military personnel, who now occupy 14% of the private rental market on O'ahu, and who are also allowed to use their basic allowance for housing to buy up and speculate on our local housing supply;
- The disproportionate representation of current and former military personnel in sex trafficking cases, as reflected in Operation Keiki Shield operations;
- Continual high-profile instances of public shootings, domestic abuse, and intimate partner homicide perpetrated by current and former military personnel;
- The continuous provocation of foreign states in the Indo-Pacific region through the ongoing expansion of the U.S. military's presence in the Pacific, and the resulting increased risk of Hawai'i being targeted by foreign military or intelligence operations;
- The exacerbation of climate destabilization and sea level rise through the massive consumption of fossil fuels by the U.S. military as well as that of its opponents and allies responding to its ongoing expansion across the Pacific, and the planet;

among many, many other issues and concerns that the U.S. military and prevailing narratives of the military's economic "benefits" fail to recognize, much less address.

Allocating state funds to support MACRO and its promotion of the U.S. military in Hawai'i would only serve to hide, if not reward, the military's long list of unaccounted-for burdens that our islands and present and future generations must already bear. **Rather than further entrenching our literally toxic relationship with the Department of War, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully suggests investing state funds to pursue other, much more beneficial, and much more sustainable economic growth opportunities including but not limited to water resource protection and management, community stewardship of our lands and waters, and local food production.**



Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully but strongly urges the Committee to **HOLD** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:37:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & PBS Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide we stands in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 that appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

We find this legislation focused on indoctrinating our children starting in kindergarten to choose the military as a career path to be particularly concerning and essentially unethical. Of special concern is where this measure states: “The legislature also believes that strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways, and to align workforce development with Hawaii’s evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

There is great concern nationally that the U.S. is sliding into Fascism, with our president illegally kidnapping the president of Venezuela, illegally assassinating the leader of Iran, and I.C.E. Agents acting like Gestapo, facing no consequences for murdering innocent unarmed citizens in the street. The slide into Fascism isn't quick, it's slow and methodical. The slide starts out subtly and innocently. For example the Nazis in Germany started out with popular cultural youth camps to indoctrinate their children. This legislation looks too much like another step in the direction of the Fascist tendency already growing in our country, which should be a great concern for all of us.

Further, the US military does not need any more help from Hawaii tax payers' tight budgets to recruit students into their services. The U.S. Department of War budget for 2026 is \$1.42 Trillion. The U.S. Military's overbloated budget is 10 times larger then the next 10 countries combined; eight of which are U.S. allies, and we are not even technically at war. By comparison, China spends \$247 billion and Russia spends only \$149 billion on their military.

The US military already has a very robust recruitment system in Hawaii with some 47 military recruiting offices across the state, and their recruiters also have access to job fairs at Hawaii High School and College Campuses. The US Department of War will spend over \$640 million on recruitment advertising this year. As our youth sit and wait to see films in our local movie theaters, advertisements flash across the screen prior to the film showing, encouraging

Hawaii's youth to "Be all you can be!" and join the military. It is also very well known that the military will pay for the college education of our youth when they join. Since many low-income youth cannot afford a college education, this is their only way to get a college education, which essentially creates a poverty draft.

In what government watchdog groups are calling "Lobstergate," the U.S. Department of War is so overly funded that in September 2025 it blew \$93 billion in a spending spree which included nonessential luxury items such as \$7 million on lobster tails, \$2 million on Alaskan king crab, \$15 million on ribeye steak, and \$98,329 for a Steinway Grand Piano. To add insult to injury the Pentagon doesn't even keep track of the money they waste and failed its eighth consecutive annual audit in December 2025, remaining the only major federal agency to never pass their audit.

As we are all aware, Hawaii has an over dependence on the military for financial income for the state. The problem with this over dependence on the military is that it sidelines our state away from cultivating other revenue streams to build Hawaii's economic stability that is not overly dependent on the military. Legislation like this is siloing our youth into a "dead end" career path. The funds being requested would be much better used to help inspire and prepare Hawaii youth for essential careers that our people need and will be very beneficial to Hawaii like teaching, medicine, sustainable agriculture, and clean renewable energy.

Please VOTE NO on SB3240 SD1, because Hawaii tax payers cannot afford to waste our hard earned tax money on recruitment for the extremely well funded U.S. Department of War.

Mahalo, Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:37:32 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Truitt	Hawaiian acres community association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An increase in military spending and programs is not in alignment with the values of our community.



Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Maki Morinoue, and testifying on behalf of HULI PAC, and I am a resident of Hawai'i Island in strong oppose of SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai'i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination; it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai'i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai'i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993 Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai'i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O'ahu residents. Military training activities



have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification; it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- **Arts and culture** — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- **Genuine education reform** — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- **Local small businesses** — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina
- **Sustainable industries** — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,
Maki Morinoue, HULI PAC
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:50:55 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Public Safety Committee Members!

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB3240 SD1! **Please defer this measure.**

SB3240 SD1 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office. The original committee recommendation appears to have been \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, the U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts and shouldn't be funded, among other purposes, to go into our public schools.

Mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:30:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Lokahi Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT this bill.

Keep our tax dollars safe on Aloha projects.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:45:34 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill seeks to appropriate tax payer funds to increase the connectivity between the community and the military presence in Hawai'i. Ka Ohana O Na Pua opposes this action. We are a non-profit dedicated to preserving our children's future here in the Hawaiian Islands, and that does not include further funding for positions that support an increase in the military's presence in our communities. In the past, the military has not proven to be a responsible steward of the lands it occupies.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:45:34 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill seeks to appropriate tax payer funds to increase the connectivity between the community and the military presence in Hawai'i. Ka Ohana O Na Pua opposes this action. We are a non-profit dedicated to preserving our children's future here in the Hawaiian Islands, and that does not include further funding for positions that support an increase in the military's presence in our communities. In the past, the military has not proven to be a responsible steward of the lands it occupies.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:41:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

This SB3240 is a disgrace. SB3240 proposes the use of State taxpayer funds (possibly \$1.3 million) to pay for public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. SB3240 also supports bringing the defense industry messaging into the Hawai'i public school system under the guise of "workforce development".

Surely we can find better use of taxpayers money than doing propaganda work for the US war machine.

Jim Albertini, president of Malu 'Aina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:29:33 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Harder	Zero Waste Kauai	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) "to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve ... and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely, John Harder, former head of the Office of Solid Waste Management, Dept of Health, State of Hawaii

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:08:23 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoʻolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD 1

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD 1.

As retired preschool – 12 + educators, we strongly oppose SB 3240 that would promote and normalize war. Do not use taxpayer monies to advance military propaganda in Hawai‘i. Instead, support and allow the next generation to learn the value of “let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me,” promoting the simple aloha ideals of the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated.

IMMEDIATELY NO to SB 3240 SD1

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:48:43 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Guckenheimer	Kona Indivisible	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should not be using Hawai'i taxpayer funds for the whitewashing of US military activity in the State. The Department of Defense is overfunded already nationally.

Sam Guckenheimer
Lead, Kona Indivisible

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 5:40:07 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauae kekahuna	'O Maku'u ke kahua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more illegal occupation and agendas and recruitments within our Hawaiian kingdom.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:12:13 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is no way to diversify our economy. We do need to diversify, but not by further militarizing our state, and thereby making us a bigger target for foreign aggression. The military in Hawaii has demonstrated its lack of regard for the 'aina; poisoning drinking water, making land unusable for agriculture or housing, disregarding cultural sites. Under our current warmongers in the Pentagon, militarization may look like a good investment, but it is not sustainable. Industry dependent on war and aggression and domination is a deadend endeavor for humankind. Responsible leadership must know this to be true and invest in a different kind of future. It is deeply concerning that Hawaii legislators have entertained and advanced this ludicrous proposal for a future for Hawaii. Mulching 1.3 million dollars would be a better use of our money. **STRONG OPPOSITION SB3240**

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:55:48 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and honorable members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we are in complete and total shock that this bill has made it to the Public Safety Committee. On behalf of our members we are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 . This bill is not in the best interest of safety at all ! By turning our children into soldiers / defense contractors this is a very big dystopian nightmare scenario. Our children are not for sale to the military contractors. This is a fake economy. one that will harm the workers and only make the Defense Companies wealthy beyond belief.

Hawai'i's' Keiki should not be targets for a pipeline of workers to feed the Military Industrial Complex. We have another vision of a healthy world for our communities where children grow up , not with blood and war games on their minds , but one where the water is clean, the air is some of the purest in the world, and the land has ceased to be poisoned by the military with their back room deals with our Governor. We have LOTS of clean up to do as the military has been poisoning our Islands for generations. The military is not a good steward of the land.

This vision, is for a sustainable Hawai'i that provides cultural value, family values, and a way of life that we can be sure no one's child is killed by military equipment with a "Made in Hawai'i " stamp. This is not our legacy! The military is not a good steward of the Hawaiian Kingdom .

The Green Party of Hawai'i recognizes we are on stolen lands , and we are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 .

Mahalo ,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Friday, March 13, 2026

To: House Committee on Public Safety (PBS)

Re: SB3240 SD1 *re MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE*

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2026 — 9:00am Conf Room 411 & Video

Position: STRONG OPPOSITION

Aloha, Chair Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully **opposes SB 3240 SD 1**, which asserts that:

strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways ... aligned with Hawaii's evolving industrial and defense-related needs.

The Environmental Caucus has strong objections to the values reflected in this language. The bill explicitly seeks to integrate K–12 students into defense-sector workforce pipelines, including early college, internships, and direct-to-career tracks tied to military-driven industrial needs. This is not an appropriate role for Hawai'i's public education system, nor is it aligned with the values of communities most impacted by military contamination and land use.

The bill further states that:

the purpose of this Act is to strengthen Hawaii's defense-related workforce pathways, local business readiness, and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity... to capture and retain federal investment.

This framing prioritizes defense-sector economic interests over community health, environmental protection, and the rights of subsistence-dependent and Native Hawaiian families.

The purpose of public education, as stated in this bill, seems to be that Hawai'i's public education students need only be trained for work as tiny cogs in the wheels of defense industries, rather than as independently free-thinking human beings.

The Environmental Caucus offers the following concerns:

1. K–12 students should not be targeted for defense-sector workforce development. Public education must serve the needs of children to become critical thinkers in an ever-more complex world, not as cogs in the labor requirements of defense-industry programs.
2. Economic resilience cannot be built on deeper structural dependence on defense spending. Hawai'i needs diversified, sustainable economic pathways that do not increase environmental risk or federal dependency.



Testimony before House Public Safety Committee
On SB 3420 SD 1
March 16, 2026
Page 2

3. The bill does not address the environmental and public health harms associated with defense-related activities. Communities such as Waimānalo, Wai‘anae, and Red Hill continue to experience contamination, including PFAS, fuel releases, and ecosystem disruption.
4. Native Hawaiian and subsistence communities are disproportionately impacted. These communities rely on nearshore waters for food security, subsistence fishing, and cultural practices — all of which are threatened by expanding defense-sector industrialization.
5. The bill expands the authority and funding of the Military and Community Relations Office without safeguards. There does not appear to be any requirement for environmental review, cultural impact assessment, or community consultation.

Broader Environmental Caucus positions relating to the issues raised by this bill:

The Environmental Caucus supports:

1. Environmental justice and public health protections.
2. Diversified, sustainable economic development.
3. Food security for Hawai‘i residents.
4. Protection of subsistence fishing communities.
5. Native Hawaiian cultural practices and access rights.

SB3240 SD1 conflicts with these values by prioritizing defense-sector workforce expansion over community well-being, environmental protection, and the rights of Native Hawaiian and subsistence-dependent families.

Conclusion

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee on Public Safety to hold **SB 3240 SD 1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-Chair burdick808@gmail.com

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair mike@energyjustice.net

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair Emerita legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

LATE



RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 16, 2026, 8:10 am

House Committee on Public Safety

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Opposes: SB3240 SD1

Monday, March 16th, 2026 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 411

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Members of the Committee ,

The Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1.

This bill proposes to utilize taxpayer funds to “strengthen Hawaii's defense-related workforce pathways, local business readiness, and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity and improve public service delivery, economic resilience, and the State's ability to capture and retain federal investment by making an appropriation to the military and community relations office to enhance the State's capacity for intergovernmental coordination and effective administration of defense-related programs.”

At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, and when confidence about the military's ability to steward environmental resources is low, funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging. The disastrous Red Hill fuel spills, the Land Board's rejection of the military's EIS for Pōhakuloa lease renewal and the massive drain on local housing all have dramatically eroded public trust. The contamination of our lands and waters have to be meaningfully addressed, to the extent that is even possible.

State funded workforce development efforts should be channeled into the growth of new economic sectors that make Hawai'i less dependent on the US military and that chart a more economically and environmentally resilient future for Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240 SD1.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:24:03 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3240.

March 12, 2026

In the

Fm: Liko-o-kalani Martin

likomartinhawaii@gmail.com

Ahupuaa o Hakipu, Oahu

To: The President of the Senate of the Legislature of the
Legislature of the United States Political Subdivision aka STATE
OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii, and Chairperson and Committee Members of
the Senate Committee Members -

Cc to:

U.N. Special Repertoire on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples urgentaction@ohchr.org; and Special Repertoire
on truth, justice and reparation and guarantees of
non-recurrence. OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix,
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. **Fax:** + 41 22 917 9006
Email: hrc-sr-truth@un.org (Mr. Bernard Duhaime-["gross
violations of human rights and serious violations of
international humanitarian law"])

Regarding: SB3240 SD1, Measure Title: RELATING TO THE
MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE—Report
Title: DBEDT; Military and Community Relations Office;
Intergovernmental Coordination; Defense-Related Workforce
Development; Advanced Manufacturing and Sustainment;
Business Readiness; Appropriation(\$)

Description—Appropriates funds to the Development of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities: effective: 7/1/20'50 (SDI) - Introducers FUKUNAGA, CHANG — Bill Scheduled to be heard on Friday, 03-13-28, 9:00 AM in the House Conference room 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

I am a living natural person, Inhabitant - descendant of the signatories to the Kue Petition, in support of Her Majesty Queen Liliuokalani's, June 17, 1897 official diplomatic letter of *"protest"*, *"duly filed" in the State Department, Washington, District of Columbia, June 18, 1897*, *"On behalf of the Hawaiian Patriotic League, on behalf of the Hui Kalaiaina organizations of the native and part-native people of the Hawaiian Islands for the restoration of Constitutional Government, and the perpetuation of the Independence under their own rulers of the Islands,(being a part of the whole of the "chief governing authority" with respect to Title 16. U.S. Code - Conservation Part A - Historic Preservation Programs), and by Commissions duly executed.... conferring upon me authority..."* as per the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, Volume I, Chapter 14, CERTAIN RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, HAWAIIANA [Civil Codes of the Hawaiian Islands 1859, MISCELLANEOUS Laws CHAPTER XXXIV....],

I am am a protected Person under the Fourth Geneva Convention (U.S. signatory 1907 - the HAGUE) residing within the "Physical Maritime Riparian and Territorial Boundaries of Ko Hawaii Pae 'Aina" aka Kingdom of Hawaii, under *"duress"* since January 16 & 17, 1893, by way of the *"unauthorized"* landing of United States

Naval Forces, in Honolulu, Oahu, in violation of the Constitution of the United States of America, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 - "War Powers", and continuing "*violation of treaties* [1850 (Multilateral) Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation - ratified between the Kingdom of Hawaii and the United States of America"], *and of international law*", admitted by way of the facts, findings, conclusions and **outstanding** "*commitment...to acknowledge the ramifications*" in "*U.S. Public Law 103-150, Nov.23, 1993, President William J. Clinton, issuing an advisory to all members of the 2026 Session of the STATE OF HAWAII (U.S. political - " neither de jure, nor de facto" subdivision*", that in pursuance of initiating the aforementioned SB3240 SD1, you are in violation of Title 18. U.S. Code Section 1960 -"Act of June 5, 1794, Chapter 50, Statute 381, 383-384, 1794: Whoever, within the United States , knowingly begins or sets on foot or provides or prepares a means for or furnishes the money for, or takes part in, any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States is at peace, shall be fined not more than \$3,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both. In addition, the statute also prohibits other hostile activities against foreign countries with which the United States is at peace.

For the 2026 legislature to entertain and support this measure is to **incite and act in contravention** to: (1) the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1924), published by the International Save the Children Union in Geneva on 23 February 1923 as follows: 1. The child must be given the means requisite for its **normal development, both materially and spiritually**. 2.The child that

is hungry must be fed, the child that is sick must be nursed, the child that is backward must be helped, the delinquent child must be reclaimed, and **the orphan and the waif must be sheltered and succored.** 3. **The child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress.** 4. **The child must be put in a position to earn a livelihood, and must be protected against every form of exploitation.** 5. **The child must be brought up in the consciousness that its talents must be devoted to the service of its fellow men.** (The text was endorsed by the League of Nations to which the Kingdom of Hawaii was a part of, prior to its usurpation on January 17, 1893, and it was ordered to be displayed at every school in France).- t is to be noted that **The DeclarationUnited Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (ROC)**, entering into force on 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49 of the United Nations Charter; **(2)** United States *“obligations”* as a Member State of the United Nations, under the United Nations Charter Article 76, and United Nations Statute of the International Court of Justice, Article 35 through 38; **(3)** and the International Criminal Court (ICC), *“Rome Statute-Elements of Crimes” aka War Crimes - Article 8 bus 74* Crime of Aggression.

Submitted electronically by Liko-o-kalani Martin on March 12 2026.

Testimony in Opposition to SB 3240 SD1

Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

House Committee on Public Safety

Monday, March 16, 2026 | 9:00 AM | Conference Room 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Submitted by: Cristina Holt, Hilo, Hawaii Island

Position: OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the committee.

My name is Cristina Holt. I am a resident of Hilo, Hawaii Island, and I am here to oppose SB 3240 SD1.

I want to note before I begin that I submitted testimony for the hearing that was originally scheduled for today and was not notified that it would not be considered unless I resubmitted. I found out on my own. I have attached a PDF of the previously submitted public testimony to this submission to ensure that no one's voice is left out because of this failure to communicate.

How many people submitted in good faith, did their civic duty, and have no idea their words are not in this record? In a process that is already hard to access for people with jobs and families and lives, the least we can do is notify them when the rules change. A lack of notification is not a small thing. It is a barrier to participation dressed up as procedure.

Now. What this bill actually is.

This bill is about timing, propaganda, and tightening the military's grip on Hawaii. It is hiding behind the mask of a workforce bill.

Military leases on Hawaiian land come up for renegotiation in 2029. That land was taken in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. It was never lawfully surrendered and has never been returned. That deadline represents one of the most significant opportunities Hawaii has had in decades to reclaim it.

This bill, timed deliberately to move through the 2026 session, uses state money and state infrastructure to make Hawaii so economically dependent on the federal defense apparatus that walking away from those leases in 2029 becomes politically and economically unthinkable. The bill language makes that explicit. Aligning Hawaii's workforce with "evolving industrial and defense-related needs." Connecting local companies to "federal procurement pathways." Growing "in-state manufacturing, repair, and sustainment capacity." That is not workforce development. That is manufactured dependency, built on purpose, right before the moment when Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawaii had the most leverage they have had in a generation to take control of our collective destiny.

The K-12 pipeline language should stop everyone in this room cold and is also meant to increase our collective dependence on war.

This bill explicitly calls for integrating students from kindergarten through twelfth grade into career pathways aligned with "defense-related needs." Kindergarten. Five years old. This bill asks Hawaii taxpayers to fund a pipeline that feeds our children to this war machine. The same war machine that, on the first day of its illegal, out of control war of choice, struck the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Iran on February 28th, killing at least 168 children between the ages of seven and

twelve while they sat in their classrooms. According to NPR, CNN, and the Washington Post, a Pentagon assessment concluded the U.S. was responsible.

The office created specifically to prevent civilian casualties had been gutted by the Secretary of Defense weeks before the strike. And our federal tax dollars have been funding the genocide in Gaza for over two years while the world watches and documents every atrocity. We are now being asked to add our state tax dollars to that. To build a pipeline from Hawaii's kindergartens to the industry that just killed 168 girls in a classroom. To the one that has killed countless children across the globe to further U.S. imperial and capitalist aims.

Furthermore, this institution has not earned that investment, or any investment from the people of Hawaii.

The Navy's Red Hill facility contaminated the primary drinking water source for nearly 100,000 Oahu residents. They knew, said nothing, minimized it, delayed, and fought accountability at every step. At Pohakuloa on Hawaii Island, the military has operated for decades, denied documented depleted uranium contamination, and produced an Environmental Impact Statement found to be inadequate. Pohakuloa sits on some of the most sacred land on this island.

The community has been lied to, repeatedly, about what is happening there and what it is doing to the surrounding environment. Hawaii has multiple military-related Superfund sites on the EPA's list, sites the military created, disputed responsibility for, slow-walked cleanup on, and then used as an excuse not to vacate the land because it is too dangerous. These are not allegations. They are documented. They are on the record. And they have never been meaningfully accounted for.

And rather than accountability, they send us a podcast.

MACRO, the office this bill funds, was created using a federal grant specifically designed to fund military entrenchment in communities near installations. Its deputy director is an active U.S. Navy Reserve lieutenant commander. It places promotional segments on local TV. It produces economic impact studies designed to make the case for military spending to increase and never cease. This is exactly what the military does when it has poisoned water and bombed sacred land and lied about it all. They do not clean it up. They do not make it right. They hire communicators to make people feel good about the relationship. They build infrastructure to normalize the presence and manufacture consent for its continuation. SB 3240 makes that infrastructure permanent with Hawaii state tax dollars, three years before lease renegotiations on land that was never theirs to lease in the first place.

The people of Hawaii are watching this vote closely. We are not confused about what a yes vote means, and no amount of posturing, reframing, or claims of economic necessity will change what the record shows. Votes are public. Records are permanent. Constituents have long memories, and they talk to each other.

History is also instructive here. Support for the Iraq War ended careers that seemed untouchable. Politicians who were certain they were on the right side of public opinion discovered, sometimes years later, that their constituents had not forgotten and had not forgiven. We are in one of those moments again, except this time the public never supported the war in the first place. Poll after poll shows roughly 59% of Americans oppose this war, including 89% of Democrats and 60% of independents.

Unlike every major military engagement in modern American history, this one started unpopular and has stayed there. There is no rally around the flag moment coming. There is no future in which voting to deepen Hawaii's ties to this war machine looks good in hindsight.

A yes vote on this bill is a yes vote to fund military propaganda, to deepen entrenchment on stolen land, and to build a pipeline from Hawaii's classrooms to an industry that just killed 168 girls in theirs. Anyone casting a vote should be prepared to defend it, in every room, in every race, for as long as they seek the public's trust and consent to govern. We will be in those rooms. We will remember. And we will make sure others do too.

Hawaii's money should go to clean energy, food sovereignty, healthcare, education, and climate resilience. Industries that do not poison our water, bomb our sacred land, or feed our children to imperial wars. The answer to military dependency is not to deepen it.

I strongly oppose SB 3240 SD1. I ask this committee to hold it.

Cristina Holt

Hilo, Hawaii Island

— *The following pages contain all testimony submitted for the cancelled March 13 hearing. These voices deserve to be in the record.* —

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA
PHILLIP L. MALLORY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
DIRECTOR
JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

March 11, 2026

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawaii National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB3240 SD1.

This important legislation signifies a crucial investment in enhancing intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities. It allocates funding to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO). MACRO acts as a vital link between Hawaii's military and civilian sectors by promoting mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues significant to both the Department of Defense and the State of Hawaii.

By providing essential funding, this legislation will enable MACRO to continue fostering collaboration and communication among military, local, state, and federal entities. This investment will help maintain an environment where trust and understanding can flourish, benefiting Hawaii's residents while supporting national security objectives. Ultimately, this investment will aid MACRO in building a more cohesive relationship between the military and the people of Hawaii—one that honors shared values and advances the interests of our state and our nation.

The Hawaii National Guard, Department of Defense, supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

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

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Friday, March 13, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully submits testimony **in support** of SB3240 SD1. MACRO serves as the State's day-to-day connector between military commands, state and county agencies, schools, businesses, and community stakeholders helping partners navigate issues that rarely fall within a single agency's lane, from installation infrastructure needs and land coordination to workforce alignment and economic opportunity planning. As defense activity and federal investment in Hawai'i continue, this centralized coordination role has become increasingly essential to keeping projects moving efficiently and ensuring the benefits reach local communities.

In practice, this work is highly operational. MACRO has supported efforts that connect local companies with federal buyers and contracting pathways, helped align community college and training programs with shipyard and industrial workforce needs, coordinated with installations and state agencies to address infrastructure and community interface challenges, and convened cross-sector partners to streamline communication during high-impact projects. These examples demonstrate how targeted capacity within one office can remove barriers, accelerate timelines, and translate federal activity into jobs, contracts, and tangible outcomes for Hawai'i residents. Additional resources would allow us to scale these efforts statewide and respond more proactively as opportunities arise.

Specifically, this funding would support:

- (1) business readiness and compliance assistance to help Hawai'i companies navigate federal procurement and cybersecurity requirements;
- (2) strengthened education-to-career pathways through partnerships with schools, community colleges, and training providers that connect residents to internships, apprenticeships, and direct placement in defense and industrial base careers; and
- (3) targeted initiatives that grow in-state manufacturing, repair, and sustainment capacity, reducing reliance on off-island supply chains and keeping federal dollars circulating locally.

We are grateful for any support in MACRO's coordination and workforce capacities, as this measure would improve public service, economic resilience, and Hawai'i's ability to capture and retain federal opportunities that benefit our communities statewide. Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued support of efforts that strengthen both our readiness and local economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

**Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair**

**RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:05 am**

**Friday, March 13, 2026, at 9:00AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference**

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 3240 Senate Draft 1 (SB3240 SD1), which appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO) to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

SB3240 SD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military & Defense. The military constitutes a significant portion of the State's economic and workforce landscape, supporting thousands of local jobs, small businesses, and education-to-career pathways. Maintaining strong, consistent community relations is essential to ensuring a positive and productive working relationship between the military and the public.

The Chamber supports the mission of MACRO: "... to promote positive relationships between Hawai'i's military and civilian sectors by fostering mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues important to both the United States Department of Defense and the State of Hawai'i." Given Hawai'i's geopolitical importance, the Chamber believes supporting a positive military-community relationship is especially important as international relations, technologies, and workforce needs continue to evolve. MACRO's dedication to creating opportunities for workforce development, contributing towards emergency preparedness, community leadership through infrastructure improvement, and increasing access to contract opportunities for local businesses makes the Office a powerful agent within the business landscape. Such efforts in community partnership result in improvements in economic resilience and community resilience at large. An investment in MACRO is an investment in a resilient economy marked by military partnership.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3240 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawai'i's economy and securing Hawai'i's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030

Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.



Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety

Friday, March 13, 2026
9:00AM Conference Room 411

RE: SB3240 SD1 DBEDT/Military and Community Relations Office - Oppose

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce, we submit this testimony to oppose SB3240 SD1. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, entrepreneurs, creatives, and sole proprietors across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

We recognize that the military has long been part of Hawai'i's economic landscape, and constructive dialogue between military and civilian sectors is important. At the same time, many small businesses are primarily seeking fair access to opportunities, transparency in contracting, and an economic strategy that strengthens Hawai'i's diversification and long-term resilience, rather than increasing reliance on any single sector.

According to the State's own Military and Community Relations Office, Department of Defense spending already accounts for roughly 8.3 percent of Hawai'i's GDP, making it the second-largest sector in the state economy, while military activities utilize approximately 221,000 acres of land statewide. These figures illustrate that the military presence in Hawai'i is already substantial.

SB3240 also emphasizes connecting K-12 education and workforce pathways to defense-related careers. While workforce development is critically important, Hawai'i's education and workforce systems should prepare students for a broad range of industries that meet the everyday needs of our communities, including energy, housing, agriculture, healthcare, arts and culture, and local entrepreneurship.

Additionally, strong military-community relationships must include

**Hawaii Legislative
Council Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

transparency, accountability, and protection of public resources, particularly in light of recent events such as the Red Hill water contamination crisis, which highlighted the importance of safeguarding public health, water resources, and community trust.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce believes Hawai'i's economic future will be strongest when public policy supports a diversified, locally rooted, and resilient economy that complements existing sectors while building new ones.

Respectfully submitted.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:18:34 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & PBS Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide we stands in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 that appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

We find this legislation focused on indoctrinating our children starting in kindergarten to choose the military as a career path to be particularly concerning and essentially unethical. Of special concern is where this measure states *“The legislature also believes that strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways, and to align workforce development with Hawaii’s evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”*

There is great concern nationally that the U.S. is sliding into Fascism, with our president illegally kidnapping the president of Venezuela, illegally murdering the leader of Iran, and I.C.E. Agents acting like Gestapo, facing no consequences for murdering innocent unarmed citizens in the street. The slide into Fascism isn't quick, it's slow and methodical. The slide starts out subtly and innocently. For example the Nazis in Germany started out with popular cultural youth camps to indoctrinate their children. This legislation looks too much like another step in the direction of the Fascist tendency already growing in our country, which should be a great concern for all of us.

Further, the US military does not need any more help from Hawaii tax payers' tight budgets to recruit students into their services. The U.S. Department of War budget for 2026 is \$1.42 Trillion. The U.S. Military's overbloated budget is 10 times larger then the next 10 countries combined; eight of which are U.S. allies, and we are not even technically at war. By comparison, China spends \$247 billion and Russia spends only \$149 billion on their military.

The US military already has a very robust recruitment system in Hawaii with some 47 military recruiting offices across the state, and their recruiters also have access to job fairs at Hawaii High School and College Campuses. The US Department of War will spend over \$640 million on recruitment advertising this year. As our youth sit and wait to see films in our local movie theaters, advertisements flash across the screen prior to the film showing, encouraging Hawaii's

youth to “*Be all you can be!*” and join the military. It is also very well known that the military will pay for the college education of our youth when they join. Since many low-income youth cannot afford a college education, this is their only way to get a college education, which essentially creates a poverty draft.

In what government watchdog groups are calling “Lobstergate,” the U.S. Department of War is so overly funded that in September 2025 it blew \$93 billion in a spending spree which included nonessential luxury items such as \$7 million on lobster tails, \$2 million on Alaskan king crab, \$15 million on ribeye steak, and \$98,329 for a Steinway Grand Piano. To add insult to injury the Pentagon doesn't even keep track of the money they waste and failed its eighth consecutive annual audit in December 2025, remaining the only major federal agency to never pass their audit.

As we are all aware, Hawaii has an over dependence on the military for financial income for the state. The problem with this over dependence on the military is that it sidelines our state away from cultivating other revenue streams to build Hawaii's economic stability that is not overly dependent on the military.

Legislation like this is siloing our youth into a “dead end” career path. The funds being requested would be much better used to help inspire and prepare Hawaii youth for essential careers that our people need and will be very beneficial to Hawaii like teaching, medicine, sustainable agriculture, and clean renewable energy.

Please VOTE NO on SB3240 SD1, because Hawaii tax payers cannot afford to waste our hard earned tax money on recruitment for the extremely well funded U.S. Department of War.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 411 or via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 3240 SD1.

The 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.

Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an essential role in strengthening coordination between Hawai'i's military commands, state and county agencies, educational institutions, and community partners. As federal investment and defense activity continue to grow, the need for a centralized, trusted point of coordination has become increasingly important to ensure projects advance efficiently and that benefits reach Hawai'i's residents.

MACRO's work directly supports Hawai'i's economic resilience and workforce development. The office helps local companies navigate federal procurement pathways, aligns education and training programs with defense-sector workforce needs, and facilitates communication among agencies during high-impact projects. These efforts translate federal activity into local jobs, contracts, and long-term opportunities for Hawai'i's communities.

SB 3240 SD1 provides the resources needed to expand this work statewide and ensure Hawai'i continues to benefit from its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. For these reasons, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB3240 SD1
Before the House Committee on Public Safety (PBS)
Friday, March 13, 2026 — 9:00 AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully **opposes SB3240 SD1, RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

SB3240 SD1 asserts that:

“strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways... aligned with Hawaii’s evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

The Caucus has significant concerns with this language. The bill explicitly seeks to integrate K–12 students into defense-sector workforce pipelines, including early college, internships, and direct-to-career tracks tied to military-driven industrial needs. This is not an appropriate role for Hawai'i's public education system, nor is it aligned with the values of communities most impacted by military contamination and land use.

The bill further states that its purpose is to:

“strengthen Hawaii’s defense-related workforce pathways, local business readiness, and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity... to capture and retain federal investment.”

This framing prioritizes defense-sector economic interests over community health, environmental protection, and the rights of Native Hawaiian and subsistence-dependent families.

The Environmental Caucus offers the following concerns:

1. K–12 students should not be targeted for defense-sector workforce development. Public education must serve the needs of children, not the labor requirements of defense-industry programs.

2. The bill does not address the environmental and public health harms associated with defense-related activities. Communities such as Waimānalo, Wai‘anae, and Red Hill continue to experience contamination, including PFAS, fuel releases, and ecosystem disruption.
3. Native Hawaiian and subsistence communities are disproportionately impacted. These communities rely on nearshore waters for food security, subsistence fishing, and cultural practices — all of which are threatened by expanding defense-sector industrialization.
4. Economic resilience cannot be built on deeper structural dependence on defense spending. Hawai‘i needs diversified, sustainable economic pathways that do not increase environmental risk or federal dependency.
5. The bill expands the authority and funding of the Military and Community Relations Office without safeguards. There is no requirement for environmental review, cultural impact assessment, or community consultation.

Environmental Caucus Position

The Environmental Caucus supports:

1. Food security for Hawai‘i residents.
2. Protection of subsistence fishing communities.
3. Native Hawaiian cultural practices and access rights.
4. Environmental justice and public health protections.
5. Diversified, sustainable economic development.

SB3240 SD1 conflicts with these values by prioritizing defense-sector workforce expansion over community well-being, environmental protection, and the rights of Native Hawaiian and subsistence-dependent families.

Conclusion

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to hold **SB3240 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-Chair

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair Emerita

Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:25:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Gren Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and honorable members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we are in complete and total shock that this bill has made it to the Public Safety Committee. On behalf of our members we are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 . This bill is not in the best interest of safety at all ! By turning our children into soldiers / defense contractors this is a very big dystopian nightmare scenario. Our children are not for sale to the military contractors. This is a fake economy. one that will harm the workers and only make the Defense Companies wealthy beyond belief.

Hawaii's' Keiki should not be targets for a pipeline of workers to feed the Military Industrial Complex. We have another vision of a healthy world for our communities where children grow up , not with blood and war games on their minds , but one where the water is clean, the air is some of the purest in the world, and the land has ceased to be poisoned by the military with their back room deals with our Governor. We have LOTS of clean up to do as the military has been poisoning our Islands for generations. The military is not a good steward of the land.

This vision, is for a sustainable Hawai'i that provides cultural value, family values, and a way of life that we can be sure no one's child is killed by military equipment with a "Made in Hawai'i " stamp. This is not our legacy! The military is not a good steward of the Hawaiian Kingdom .

The Green Party of Hawaii recognizes we are on stolen lands , and we are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 .

Mahalo ,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 1:34:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	The Hard Rain Working Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast - PLUS the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples - I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

According to publicly available information, **MACRO** has hired a public relations agency to, “**Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...**” They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant seeds of support and counter community opposition.

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Gary Hooser

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 12:49:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoʻolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD 1

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD 1.**

As retired preschool – 12 + educators, we **strongly oppose SB 3240** that would promote and normalize war. Do not use taxpayer monies to advance military propaganda in Hawai‘i. Instead, support and allow the next generation to learn the value of “let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me,” promoting the simple aloha ideals of the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated.

IMMEDIATELY NO to SB 3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:34:57 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Public Safety Committee Members!

The Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB3240 SD1! **Please defer this measure.**

SB3240 SD1 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office. The original committee recommendation appears to have been \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, the U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts and shouldn't be funded, among other purposes, to go into our public schools.

Mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:16:58 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Clean the Pacific	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We seriously oppose this bill. Am I to believe that the government is asking us to pay to be fed propaganda? I think that this nation has had quite enough of a authoritarian propaganda. I'm guessing that not one single citizen in the state of Hawaii would be in favor of giving the US military money to advertise their misguided ventures. I think that you can be sure about this vote. Now is the time for Good leaders to stand up against this authoritarian takeover and stopping propaganda is the first step. Don't let this administration intimidate you. I promise, your courage to support the will of the people will be rewarded. Thanks very much.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:50:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Lokahi Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE this SCAM and spend it on the homeless!!

Mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:09:55 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice-chair Iwamoto and member of the House Public Safety Committee

My name is Ronald Fujiyoshi. I am the treasurer of Ohana Ho`opakele, a Native Hawaiian Organization listed with the Pohakuloa Training Area.

Ohana Ho`opakele does not believe that the U.S. Military has been a good neighbor for Hawai`i. It has not cleaned up after testing weapons at Pohakuloa, it has contaminated the water at Red Hill, and it brings an element of violence that does not resonate with the aloha spirit of Hawai`i. We believe that Hawai`i would be better off without the U.S. Military present.

Thus, we request that your committee defer SB3240 which makes our beloved Hawai`i complicit with the violence that the U.S. Military represents worldwide.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:38:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office The request was \$1.3 million.

Surely you can find better ways to spend taxpayers money than providing PR money for the US military. Just look all around us --see the needs for feeding the hungrey, housing the homelss, etc. etc. If you want to spend money on the military -- investigate the toxic contamination at Pohakuloa -- like Depleted Uranium oixide particles and other toxins blowing in the wind, contaminating the land, and threatening the aquifers of Hawaii Island. Defer or shelve this current bill SB 3240.

Fund Peace and aloha as Hawaii's beacons for the world, not the US war machine. Mahalo.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:42:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We needed to diversify our economy but not by making Hawaii into a military state and target for military aggression from small minded tyrants. This is a horrible proposal for use of limited state funds What a dismal future it is offering our children

The Strongest Opposition to SB 3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 11:18:13 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DORIAN CABANTING	The Queens Court	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to SB3240 SD1.

This bill seeks to appropriate taxpayer funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) specifically to "strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities." I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. **Misalignment of State Priorities:** Hawai'i is currently facing a dire affordable housing crisis, rising costs of living, and urgent climate adaptation needs. State funds and administrative energy should be directed toward community-led economic diversification and local sustainability, not toward the further expansion of military-industrial interests.
2. **Increased Military Dependency:** By investing in "defense-related workforce development" and "business readiness" for military sustainment, the State is doubling down on an economic model that tethers our local workforce to federal defense spending. We should instead be investing in green energy, diversified agriculture, and technology that serves the needs of the people of Hawai'i.
3. **Community Impact:** The term "Military and Community Relations" often serves as a veneer for streamlining military expansion. Our islands already host a disproportionate military presence which has led to significant environmental and social challenges. Strengthening "intergovernmental coordination" for defense activities often happens at the expense of transparent community consultation and environmental protections.

The people of Hawai'i need an economy that is resilient and self-sufficient. SB3240 SD1 moves us in the opposite direction by subsidizing the infrastructure of the military-industrial complex with state funds.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **OPPOSE** this bill.



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street - Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone (808) 935-7178 - Fax (808) 961-4435 - Email exec@hicc.biz - www.hicc.biz

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2025-2026

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Irene Yamanaka

Tracie Yoshimoto

Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military & Community Relations Office - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 350 businesses and individual members primarily on the east side of Hawai'i Island, I am writing in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3240 SD1 (SB3240 SD1)**. This measure appropriates funds to the Military and Community Relations Office (within DBEDT) to enhance intergovernmental coordination, communication, and program administration for defense-related activities, including workforce development, local business readiness, and in-state advanced manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

Hawai'i's economy benefits greatly from federal defense investments, yet structural challenges persist. According to UHERO, when accounting for local living costs, income and productivity growth in Hawai'i have consistently fallen behind the national average. Maximizing the impact of defense resources requires strong coordination between state and federal partners, alignment of workforce development programs, and expanded in-state sustainment capacity.

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an important role in bridging Hawai'i's civilian and military sectors. Through partnerships with industry, education, and government, MACRO helps connect local businesses to federal contracting opportunities, supports workforce training aligned with defense industry needs, and strengthens communication across agencies and stakeholders.

SB3240 SD1 also aligns with the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i's 2030 Blueprint for Hawai'i's Military & Defense policy pillar, which emphasizes leveraging defense-related opportunities to grow local businesses, create high-wage jobs, and strengthen the state's industrial base. Funding MACRO will support workforce development, improve business readiness, and expand in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce respectfully asks you to **PASS Senate Bill 3240 SD1**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:51:05 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the committee.

My name is Cristina Holt. I am a resident of Hilo, Hawaii Island, and I strongly oppose SB 3240 SD1.

This bill is about timing, propaganda, and tightening the military's grip on Hawaii. It is hiding behind the mask of workforce development.

Military leases on Hawaiian land come up for renegotiation in 2029. That is one of the most significant opportunities Hawaii has had in decades to reclaim land, to reassess the terms of the military's presence here, and for Native Hawaiians to reclaim land that was taken in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and has never been returned. Everyone in this building knows that deadline is coming.

This bill is timed to move through the 2026 session specifically to make sure Hawaii cannot take that off ramp. It embeds our workforce pipeline, our community colleges, our manufacturing base, and our children's career expectations so deeply into the defense economy that walking away from military leases in 2029 becomes politically and economically unthinkable. The bill language makes that explicit. It calls for aligning Hawaii's workforce with "evolving industrial and defense-related needs." It calls for connecting local companies to "federal procurement pathways." That is not workforce development. That is manufactured dependency, timed on purpose.

And they want our kids!?

The bill calls for integrating students from kindergarten through twelfth grade into career pathways aligned with "defense-related needs." Kindergarten. Five years old. The Department of Defense already has a \$1.42 trillion budget, 47 military recruiting offices across Hawaii, ads in our movie theaters, and a college payment program that functions as a poverty draft for families who cannot afford tuition any other way. They do not need Hawaii taxpayers building them another pipeline starting at age five.

They also want our state tax dollars to fund their propaganda.

MACRO, the office this bill funds, was created in 2024 using a federal grant that exists specifically to fund military entrenchment in communities near installations. It runs a podcast. It places promotional segments on HI Now Daily. It produces economic impact studies designed to make the case for military spending to increase and never cease. It is not a neutral state office. It is a communications operation whose mission is to make Hawaii's civilian population more comfortable with military dependence. The Pentagon built that infrastructure with federal money. Now they want Hawaii taxpayers to make it permanent. That is not what our money is for.

We are being asked to do all of this at the worst possible moment. The United States is currently engaged in an illegal war invasion against Iran. How can this body even CONSIDER funding their propaganda? Especially under these circumstances and at this time?

The defense sector this bill wants to pipeline our children into includes Palantir, Anduril, Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and more; companies that are actively building autonomous weapons systems, targeting algorithms, and mass surveillance infrastructure. Deepening Hawaii's military footprint does not make us safer. It makes us a bigger target. That is not a fringe position. It is strategic logic.

And the military has never earned our trust.

The Navy's Red Hill facility contaminated the primary drinking water source for nearly 100,000 Oahu residents. The military knew, said nothing, minimized it, delayed, and fought accountability at every step. At Pohakuloa on Hawaii Island, the military has operated for decades, denied documented depleted uranium contamination, and produced an Environmental Impact Statement that was found to be inadequate. Hawaii has multiple military-related Superfund sites on the EPA's list. Contaminated soil, contaminated groundwater, contaminated communities. The military created these sites, disputed responsibility, slow-walked cleanup, and then uses that contamination as an excuse not to vacate the land because it is too dangerous.

This is the institution this bill asks us to fund. This is the institution this bill asks us to route our next generations toward.

If this legislature has \$1.3 million to spend on workforce development, spend it on clean energy, food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, healthcare, education, or climate resilience. Industries that do not poison our water, bomb our sacred land, or ask us to send our children to fight in needless, illegal wars. Industries that build a future Hawaii can actually live in.

The answer to dependency is not to deepen it. It is to end this extractive, abusive relationship before it's too late.

I strongly oppose SB 3240 SD1. I ask this committee to hold it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cristina Holt Hilo, Hawaii Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:27:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

A watchdog group recently revealed in what some are calling “Lobstergate,” Pentagon spending that included \$6.9 million on lobster tails, \$2 million on Alaskan king crab, and \$15.1 million on ribeye steak. Moreover, based on reports regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget, the Department of War has \$1.42 Trillion in budgetary resources. All this while at the same time States are facing deep cuts in federal funding for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), amounting to hundreds of billions in cuts.

SB3240 SD1 notes what the military has been telling our communities for years, that Hawai‘i is important to the military due to “its strategic location.” Hawai‘i is so important, yet we need to use \$1,300,000, or even \$1 from what’s left of our tax dollars to court them... especially when it appears they already have so much “discretionary” funding i.e. our tax dollars, to throw around?

I strongly oppose this measure that would squander our tax dollars and lead to further militarization of Hawai‘i. We have to envision a future that does not revolve around U.S. military dominance and control. Instead, we need to support workforce development and opportunities that will *improve* life here. Our funds should be allocated to build and bolster sectors that our residents desperately need— research and development on clean transportation, building materials, energy autonomy, food sovereignty, and climate change resilience. The military is touted as an economic boon in Hawai‘i, but that viewpoint overlooks the military's extractive presence, environmental damage, and other harmful behaviors. Investing in the “defense” sector only seems like a valuable opportunity because the State is not investing enough in creating other opportunities. The State should not be directing its limited funds to feed into the most well-funded agency in the country. Period. Our taxpayer dollars should be used to support *real* economic opportunities that actually benefit our communities.

I find it particularly troubling that this bill seeks “strategic coordination” to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through high school and beyond, toward a “direct-to-career pathway”, and “to align workforce development with Hawai‘i's evolving industrial and defense-related needs.” This is insidious, and reminiscent of what occurred in Nazi Germany during Hitler’s rise to power. Treating our education system as a vehicle for indoctrination is something the legislature should be protecting us from, not enabling.

To be clear, SB3240 SD1 is the type of measure I would have expected from our war-monger president, and not from our legislature, as it violates the core values of our state. I urge the Committee to vote NO on this disgraceful measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:15:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Maki Morinoue, and I am a resident of Hawai'i Island in strong oppose of SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai'i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai'i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai'i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993

Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai‘i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O‘ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai‘i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai‘i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our ‘āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama ‘āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai‘i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai‘i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha ‘āina, not on weapons contracts.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,
Maki Morinoue
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:52:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philamer Felicitas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB3240 SD1

Relating to Defense Workforce Development

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Philamer Felicitas, and I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to SB3240 SD1.

While I understand the importance of preparing Hawai'i's workforce for future economic opportunities, I have serious concerns about the direction this bill takes in aligning educational pathways with defense-related industries. The bill explicitly calls for integrating exposure for students from kindergarten through grade twelve and aligning workforce development with evolving defense-related needs. This approach raises important questions about the role of the military and defense sector in shaping our education system and long-term economic priorities.

Hawai'i's keiki deserve educational pathways that expand their opportunities across a wide range of fields that strengthen our islands and communities. Our public education system should prioritize areas that build long-term sustainability for Hawai'i, such as renewable energy, local food systems, cultural education, environmental stewardship, healthcare, technology, and locally rooted entrepreneurship.

Increasing alignment between K-12 education and defense workforce pipelines risks further deepening Hawai'i's economic dependence on military spending and federal defense priorities. Many residents already have concerns about the scale of the military footprint in our islands and

the impacts that have been felt by communities, including land use conflicts, environmental issues, and cultural concerns.

Education policy should not be used to normalize or expand defense-related career pathways for children at such an early stage. Instead, our state should invest in educational programs that empower young people to build resilient, community-based economies that reflect the values and needs of Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i has the opportunity to lead in areas such as climate resilience, ocean stewardship, sustainable agriculture, indigenous knowledge systems, and innovative local industries. Aligning our education system around these priorities would better prepare our students for a future that supports the long-term well-being of our islands.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to hold SB3240 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Philamer Felicitas

Waipahu, Hawai‘i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:57:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Hughes	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To whom it concerns.

My name is Laura Hughes, I am an Alumni of the University of Hawaii and currently am a researcher in the field of deep sea corals. I find it absolutely disgusting that this bill has advanced without opposition. I will be disrespectful when I say who do you all think you are? You will effectively provide a desk to death pipeline for Keiki of Hawaii nei whilst giving tax payer money to the federal government to kill civilians abroad. When the science is clear, funds need to be poured into climate change to prepare for the future all will have to face.

Have a day,

~Laura Hughes

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:20:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayann c	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose SB3240 , Hawaii's Money should not Fund Wars Funding Propaganda!
Thank you for your Time

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:36:42 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please OPPOSE SB3240.

This bill investing state money into the war machines and propaganda to make our children complicit in the war crimes currently taking place, is offensive.

The fact this bill has made it this far, in this geopolitical context, is just wrong. Many good bills don't even get a hearing.

If you care about protecting Hawaii, don't sign us up to be a cog in the endless war machine. If this somehow passes you will have literal blood on your hands while wasting our state tax money on an already overfunded department of war. We are counting on you to do the right thing. Kill this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:29:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong opposition of SB3240 SD1**, which seeks to strengthen our dependence on the military.

If we are providing funds to DBEDT for collaboration with educational institutions, those funds should be used to *diversify* our economy, rather than doubling down on an industry that actively harms our people and our 'āina.

This bill funnels our tax dollars into the US war machine to increase our dependence on an industry that *does not benefit our people* just before the military leases are up in 2029 and we finally have a chance to get our lands back. Do not cooperate with this attempt to use our tax dollars as a slush fund for the war machine. The perpetuation of these policies makes us a growing target at a time when the US has just started a new war in Iran!

A'ole! Please do what is pono and **oppose SB3240**.

This bill must be killed so that of our keiki and our 'āina are not.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:52:22 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3240. The U.S. Department of War has \$1.42 trillion allocated in resources, the most well-funded Dept of War in U.S. history. While Hawai'i faces cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, along with historically underfunded public education and DHHL, this bill proposes spending \$1,300,000 in state taxpayer dollars to coordinate with the Department of War.

The US says that Hawaii's "strategic location" is “vital” to the US Military. Their decades-long presence is already prevalent, extractive, and harmful. We should not be paying to court them. We should be doing everything we can to downsize their footprint, remediate the harm, and reduce future damage.

The Dept of War sector looks primarily because the State has failed to invest in alternatives. Clean transportation, energy autonomy, food sovereignty, education, climate resilience, and local workforce development. That is where this \$1.3 million belongs.

Equally alarming is this bill's facilitation of military outreach into K–12 classrooms. Kindergarteners cannot consent to recruitment. Military service is among the weightiest moral decisions a person will make; it demands a fully informed adult choice, not state-funded conditioning beginning in childhood. If our schools are to teach values, fund partnerships with institutions like the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, not pipelines to the Department of War.

It is shameful that SB 3240 receives priority hearing time while HB 2048 (requiring cleanup bonds and legislative approval for military land dispositions), HB 1916 (prohibiting live-fire training on public trust lands), and HB 2527 (repealing special federal condemnation protections) could not get hearings in the same committee. The prioritization of this bill sends a message about whose interests it serves.

Please defer SB 3240. Our keiki, our lands, and our tax dollars deserve better.

March 12, 2026

In the

LATE

**RECEIVED
Date & Time**

Mar 12, 2026, 11:07 am

Fm: Liko-o-kalani Martin

likomartinhawaii@gmail.com

Ahupuaa o Hakipu, Oahu

To: The President of the Senate of the Legislature of the
Legislature of the United States Political Subdivision aka STATE
OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii, and Chairperson and Committee Members of
the Senate Committee Members -

Cc to:

U.N. Special Repertoire on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples urgentaction@ohchr.org; and Special Repertoire
on truth, justice and reparation and guarantees of
non-recurrence. OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix,
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. **Fax:** + 41 22 917 9006
Email: hrc-sr-truth@un.org (Mr. Bernard Duhaime-[“gross
violations of human rights and serious violations of
international humanitarian law”])

Regarding: SB3240 SD1, Measure Title: RELATING TO THE
MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE—Report
Title: DBEDT; Military and Community Relations Office;
Intergovernmental Coordination; Defense-Related Workforce
Development; Advanced Manufacturing and Sustainment;
Business Readiness; Appropriation(\$)

Description—Appropriates funds to the Development of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities: effective: 7/1/20'50 (SDI) - Introducers FUKUNAGA, CHANG — Bill Scheduled to be heard on Friday, 03-13-28, 9:00 AM in the House Conference room 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

I am a living natural person, Inhabitant - descendant of the signatories to the Kue Petition, in support of Her Majesty Queen Liliuokalani's, June 17, 1897 official diplomatic letter of *"protest"*, *"duly filed" in the State Department, Washington, District of Columbia, June 18, 1897*, *"On behalf of the Hawaiian Patriotic League, on behalf of the Hui Kalaiaina organizations of the native and part-native people of the Hawaiian Islands for the restoration of Constitutional Government, and the perpetuation of the Independence under their own rulers of the Islands,(being a part of the whole of the "chief governing authority" with respect to Title 16. U.S. Code - Conservation Part A - Historic Preservation Programs), and by Commissions duly executed.... conferring upon me authority..."* as per the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, Volume I, Chapter 14, CERTAIN RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, HAWAIIANA [Civil Codes of the Hawaiian Islands 1859, MISCELLANEOUS Laws CHAPTER XXXIV....],

I am am a protected Person under the Fourth Geneva Convention (U.S. signatory 1907 - the HAGUE) residing within the "Physical Maritime Riparian and Territorial Boundaries of Ko Hawaii Pae 'Aina" aka Kingdom of Hawaii, under *"duress"* since January 16 & 17, 1893, by way of the *"unauthorized"* landing of United States

Naval Forces, in Honolulu, Oahu, in in violation of the Constitution of the United States of America, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 - "War Powers", and continuing "*violation of treaties* [1850 (Multilateral) Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation- ratified between the Kingdom of Hawaii and the United States of America"], *and of international law*", admitted by way of the facts, findings, conclusions and **outstanding** "*commitment...to acknowledge the ramifications*" in "*U.S. Public Law 103-150, Nov.23, 1993, President William J. Clinton, issuing an advisory to all members of the 2026 Session of the STATE OF HAWAII (U.S. political - " neither de jure, nor de facto" subdivision*", that in pursuance of initiating the aforementioned SB3240 SD1, you are in violation of Title 18. U.S. Code Section 1960 -"Act of June 5, 1794, Chapter 50, Statute 381, 383-384, 1794: Whoever, within the United States , knowingly begins or sets on foot or provides or prepares a means for or furnishes the money for, or takes part in, any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States is at peace, shall be fined not more than \$3,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both. In addition, the statute also prohibits other hostile activities against foreign countries with which the United States is at peace.

For the 2026 legislature to entertain and support this measure is to **incite and act in contravention** to: (1) the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1924), published by the International Save the Children Union in Geneva on 23 February 1923 as follows: 1. The child must be given the means requisite for its **normal development, both materially and spiritually**. 2.The child that

is hungry must be fed, the child that is sick must be nursed, the child that is backward must be helped, the delinquent child must be reclaimed, and **the orphan and the waif must be sheltered and succoured.** 3. **The child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress.** 4. **The child must be put in a position to earn a livelihood, and must be protected against every form of exploitation.** 5. **The child must be brought up in the consciousness that its talents must be devoted to the service of its fellow men.** (The text was endorsed by the League of Nations to which the Kingdom of Hawaii was a part of, prior to its usurpation on January 17, 1893, and it was ordered to be displayed at every school in France).- t is to be noted that **The DeclarationUnited Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (ROC)**, entering into force on 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49 of the United Nations Charter; **(2)** United States *“obligations”* as a Member State of the United Nations, under the United Nations Charter Article 76, and United Nations Statute of the International Court of Justice, Article 35 through 38; **(3)** and the International Criminal Court (ICC), *“Rome Statute-Elements of Crimes” aka War Crimes - Article 8 bus 74* Crime of Aggression.

Submitted electronically by Liko-o-kalani Martin on March 12 2026.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 11:27:29 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE. In a moment where we as Kanaka O'iwi and people of Hawaii are trying to de-couple ourselves from the military due to their desecration, disrespect and lack of accountability to the people, our islands and resources, this is counterproductive and a gross extension of money and power. The military budget has been egregiously expanded on a Federal Level, let them foot the bill for coordination as well.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 12:49:14 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 for the following reasons:

- The bill directs state funds toward programs primarily supporting the military and defense industries rather than community-focused needs.
- Workforce programs tied to defense industries may narrow educational and career pathways instead of preparing students for diverse opportunities.
- Investments favor defense-related industries over locally grounded sectors such as sustainable agriculture, housing, and small business development.
- Expanding military-aligned programs ignores past incidents, such as the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility contamination, which had serious impacts on community health and trust.
- The bill does not adequately consider the long-term effects on our communities, lands, and Native Hawaiian cultural values.
- Overall, the bill prioritizes military partnerships over initiatives that directly strengthen and sustain Hawai'i's communities.

For these reasons, I ask you to oppose SB3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:43:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Makaawaawa	Nation of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

The Nation of Hawai'i respectfully opposes this bill, which would use public funds to strengthen coordination for military and defense activities in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is known as a place of peace and stewardship of the land. The values of aloha 'āina and mālama 'āina call on us to protect our islands and care for them for future generations. Continued investment in military expansion moves Hawai'i further away from these values.

The military has not been a responsible steward of Hawaiian lands. Decades of military activity have resulted in contamination of land and water, damage to ecosystems, and restricted access to cultural and ancestral sites that Native Hawaiians depend upon. These harms remain unresolved today.

It is deeply concerning that, while these issues remain unaddressed, the military has also threatened the potential seizure of additional lands if current leases are not renewed. Rewarding this history of poor stewardship and coercive pressure with additional public funding is not in the best interest of Hawai'i or its people.

Public funds should support the wellbeing of our communities and the restoration of our lands—not the expansion of military activities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Legislature to reject this measure and not pass this bill.

Aloha,

Brandon Maka'awa'awa

Vice President, Nation of Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 1:30:56 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD1.

I write in respectful opposition to SB3240 SD1 from the perspective of someone who has spent many years working in education and educational leadership.

Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand how public policy decisions shape the opportunities available to our students and the direction of our workforce. The priorities we set today influence the pathways young people are encouraged to pursue tomorrow. For this reason, I have concerns about legislation that invests state resources into expanding programs aligned primarily with the military and defense sector.

Hawai‘i already has a significant military presence and long-standing economic ties to defense spending. While that relationship has played a role in our economy, further directing public funds toward strengthening defense-related industries risks reinforcing a narrow economic pathway for our students and communities. Our educational system should prepare students for a broad range of careers that support innovation, sustainability, cultural stewardship, and locally grounded economic development.

In education, we work constantly to encourage critical thinking, civic responsibility, and a commitment to the long-term well-being of our communities. Public investment should reflect those same values. Hawai‘i faces urgent challenges in areas such as affordable housing, environmental protection, sustainable food systems, and community-based economic development. These are sectors where our students can contribute meaningfully to the future of our islands.

There is also an important lesson in recent history regarding the impacts of military infrastructure in Hawai‘i. The water contamination crisis connected to the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility profoundly affected many families, including those with children in our schools. Events like this remind us that decisions related to military expansion carry real consequences for the health and trust of the communities we serve.

As educators, we strive to ensure that the next generation inherits a Hawai‘i that is resilient, self-sufficient, and guided by responsible stewardship of our lands and resources. State investments

should reflect those long-term goals and support industries that strengthen our communities. This bill does not align with those long term goals at all.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB3240 SD1.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 2:35:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Knapp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to SB3240

Keiki do not need to be fed to a war machine, they need food, water and access to the arts.

This bill funds propaganda, not services.

MACRO is not a social services agency. It is a public relations operation — one that, by its own documentation, employs automated data scraping tools to monitor and analyze public sentiment toward the military on social media, news sites, and forums. It ghost-writes op-ed columns, drafts talking points, and issues press releases designed to shape public opinion in favor of military operations in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i taxpayers should not be funding surveillance of their own opinions or the manufacturing of consent on behalf of the U.S. military.

Bringing this messaging into our keiki’s classrooms crosses a line.

SB3240 proposes to integrate MACRO’s pro-defense industry messaging into public schools from kindergarten through grade 12 under the guise of “workforce development.” This is not education — it is recruitment and indoctrination, starting with the youngest and most impressionable members of our community.

Our state budget should reflect our community’s needs, not the military’s PR needs.

With the cost of living, housing, and healthcare crises facing Hawai‘i families, there are far more urgent uses for public funds. Appropriating money to polish the military’s image is not among them.

I respectfully urge this committee to oppose SB3240.

Alexander Knapp

Big Island District 2

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 3:43:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A Wilkie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 3:50:28 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

The FY2026 military budget is already in the hundreds of billions, projecting to exceed \$1 trillion, to aid the murder of innocent people.

Use this money for resources that people actually need.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:04:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tsonnemaker15@gmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US military has the largest budget of any single institution in the world.

Asking Hawai'i taxpayers to further subsidize the military's activities when local families are struggling to get basic needs met is bad economic policy.

We have not seen any evidence that additional funding of military activities has any direct tangible economic benefit to our communities — especially compared to the opportunity cost of investing in food security, basic income, healthcare, education, and other areas with proven returns on investment.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:16:00 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverley Brand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please kill this bill!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:25:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:44:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No way do we want this state to be a weapons center for the military or a funnel for military perspective in our schools.Please vote NO!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:58:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Greene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3240

OPPOSE

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:00:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Emery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When we create an economic system that forces so many families into the working poor category, while simultaneously promoting patriotism to pay for higher education and receiving life skills, that is a recipe for a third-world nation.

Hawaiian, multi-generational, and poor people will be the primary targets to sign up to go die in old white men's wars.

These wars aren't about self-determination or sovereignty, since Hawai'i has never relinquished its sovereignty, but are at the mercy of the colonial economic system that continuously pumps out poor people dependent on the dysfunctional and violent system.

Who benefits from war? Wealthy people, weapons manufacturers, the military industrial complex, the energy industry, and most of all the banking industry.

The time to stop using our children as fodder for the wealthy has run its course centuries ago, and yet, we are still stuck in that mentality that poor people who receive no benefits but give the most are the targets of legislation and law.

Aloha
Ben Emery
Honoka'a, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:31:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe, and I am a mother of two young children—ages six and three. I am writing in **strong opposition** to SB3240. While this bill is framed as supporting “economic resilience,” it raises serious concerns about the role of military influence in our children’s education and the direction we are choosing for Hawai‘i’s future.

As a parent, I am deeply troubled by language in this bill that seeks to “integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve” to defense-related needs. Our keiki should be learning how to read, imagine, ask questions, and care for one another—not being exposed to messaging designed to normalize or promote war. Decisions about military service, war, and diplomacy are complex moral questions that belong in the hands of informed adults, not five-year-olds just beginning their educational journeys. Yet we also know that adolescents, whose brains and judgment are still developing, are especially vulnerable to persuasive recruitment messaging and patriotic propaganda that can romanticize military service while minimizing the lifelong physical, psychological, and moral consequences of war. Young people should not be targeted by programs that normalize participation in violence before they are fully able to understand its gravity and implications.

I am also concerned about the proposed use of \$1.3 million in state funds for the Military and Community Relations Office. At a time when Hawai‘i’s public schools face ongoing shortages in teachers, classroom resources, and student support, those funds should be directed toward strengthening education itself—not toward programs that encourage alignment with the military-industrial complex.

Finally, many families in Hawai‘i are already grappling with the environmental and cultural impacts of military activity across our islands—from the Red Hill fuel contamination of O‘ahu’s aquifer to contamination and ecological damage at training areas across the state. **Expanding efforts to align our children with this industry ignores the very real harms our communities and ‘āina have experienced. The state should be investing in a diversified, sustainable economy that addresses the cost of living, climate resilience, and the well-being of our communities—not building deeper dependence on military expansion.**

As a mother, I want my children’s schools to be places of learning, curiosity, and possibility—not recruitment pipelines or training grounds for future militarization. I respectfully urge you to

vote **NO on SB3240** and protect our classrooms as spaces dedicated to education, not military alignment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:42:11 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamuela Park	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed the use of taxpayer money to continue growing our dependency on the United States military for our State economy. The citizens of Hawaii have been strongly voicing our desire to demilitarize Hawaii. The passing of this bill would only further prove that our government is deaf to the voices of the people they represent.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:58:26 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Takamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240! We are tired of funding the war machine

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:05:12 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No military propaganda with tax payer dollars. This is a gross misuse of funds. Divert this \$ into supporting teachers, after school programs, ANYTHING else.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:08:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:10:03 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a nightmare of an idea.: You should be ashamed of yourselves.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:12:49 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
valerie Lasciak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to SB3240 ! I believe we shouldn't teach children about war but encourage the learning about peace and the wonderful things we can do to make the world a better place!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:15:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David ashe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is David Ashe, I am a Hawai'i resident and veteran and I OPPOSE SB 3240. I joined the military because of a lack of options and the need for health insurance and income. I was sold a life that promised me many unrealistic and false benefits by military recruiters. I was even used to recruit students from a local high school to join the military after boot camp without my understanding or consent. Propaganda works on those that don't see both sides. It's unfair to coerce young and impressionable people to sacrifice their youth, health and possible life all while using taxpayer money to produce and distribute this propaganda. While serving in the U.S. military, I was exposed to asbestos, I have damaged my joints and I suffer from mental health issues as a result of my service. That money should be used to strengthen communities here in Hawai'i, not to trick students with few options into a major life decision using false promises and deliberate withholding of information to hit a quota of warm bodies that will stand on the front line in defense of a government that sees our children as expendable casualties in its endless wars. The DoD has plenty of money, let them do the dirty work of recruiting. Mahalo for your time.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:24:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB3240.

An honest assessment of military in Hawaii will bring to light key reasons why this is a bad bill; lack of mental health support for veterans, poisoning of our natural resources, and the high rates of domestic violence occurring on the military bases today.

We live in Hawaii, and to consider creating programs to connect our youth and drive them into a system that has destroyed our environment, destroyed families, and does not take care of those who have served their system is preposterous! We do not need, nor do we want, our children finding careers in such a poisonous system. This will lead to more of our children ending up on the streets, doing drugs, with mental health issues, or in prison. This is not the future we want for our children. This is not a workforce development pipeline we want.

We live in Hawaii, where there is year-around warm temperatures, 11 of 12 ecosystems in the world, and one of the greatest indigenous cultures around the world. There is absolutely better paths for workforce development. We should be working to partner with green-technologies, blue-economies, and our film/media sector to preserve our histories and tell our stories.

There is absolutely no reason we should be intentionally trying to direct our children into the military. ABSOLUETLY NONE.

I oppose this bill and hope that you consider a better path for our children and the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:32:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hope you all haven't lost your gd minds up there!

A million three for PR from Hawai`i residents when the military just spent 93 billion dollars on steak, lobster & grand pianos, while our people are living on the sidewalk?!!!

We don't want military manufacturing weapons in the Aloha State! We don't want our grade school kids indoctrinated with BS. We don't want to shell out one more dime while the military wastes a billion a day on killing innocent people while gorging on crab claws!!! wtaf is wrong with legislators who even introduce such ridiculous legislation?!!!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:32:53 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john savino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:09:14 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the last thing we need! Are you kidding me? WTF!

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826
March 11, 2026

Aloha, Della Au Belatti, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety
Vice-Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto,
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1 "Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office." PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL. PLEASE DO NOT PASS IT FORWARD.

Children are not brought into the world – or into these islands – to learn that killing is normal or desirable. They should not grow up to spend their work lives creating armaments for a government that values killing as if it were a way to solve problems. It should be obvious that killing creates problems; it is not a rational or effective approach to problem-solving.

We have seen that children in Iran were recently killed by a bombing of their school by a missile called a Tomahawk. Many children have also been killed in conflicts in other countries.

They are children! They did not cause any of the conflicts that rage between adults. They should not be trapped into learning to assist killing.

Instead, the following should be the **schools' curriculum**: We want our children and youth to **learn and internalize the skills of nonviolent resolution of disputes, how to de-escalate conflicts, how to spread the aloha spirit that is native to this 'āina**. These nonviolent methods are **powerful** ways to resolve conflicts. We want them to learn critical thinking and how to make their own choices.

I am **grateful** that I did not grow up being taught to develop tolerance for a war-like mindset. We were taught the peace of the Beatitudes.

Think about it: Would you have wanted to grow up being indoctrinated into the values of fighting and killing? Would you want your children and/or grandchildren to grow up to think that killing is normal or desirable? That war is normal? That they should be involved in manufacturing bombs and guns?

We must all **protect the keiki from the horrible plan in SB3240 SD1** to brainwash our people from a young age into thinking that making armaments and fighting in wars is how they should live and work.

Our children should not grow up to have blood on their hands, including the blood of other children.

Please oppose SB3240 SD1. Save the children of our land and the children of other lands.

Eileen Cain
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:31:20 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear God! Is this in the Nazi Germany play book??? This is getting insane. Who came up with this one - Stephen Miller??? Heaven help us.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:02:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mai Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. As a Native Hawaiian spouse of an active duty service member who understands the meaning of readiness, I do not appreciate this bill. We know the military doesn't listen to the community. We have seen that with Red Hill. We are currently seeing the military's attitude of entitlement with Haleakala. The military is incapable of listening to residents. This is a waste of money, my hard earned tax payor money will not be spent on furthering the military agenda of destruction of our 'Aina. The military has enough money to cover its own initiatives. This is waste. Hewa.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:16:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee members,

I write in strong opposition to SB 3240, asking that you defer this measure. Frankly I'm aghast that our military who, under Hegseth, are burning through BILLIONS of our tax dollars illegally inciting wars across the globe, now want US to foot the bill for their PR contract in Hawaii, and fund their propaganda in our schools??!

What- did they run out of money trying to cover up their MAJOR blunder at Red Hill? Hell no we aren't paying for that shit. If they can afford lobster dinners every night they can pay for their own PR. Try accountability. Then they wouldn't have to pay for all the public relations smoke and mirrors.

Kill this bill. Now.

Thank you,

Beth McDermott

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:25:19 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill directs our state tax dollars to the military where there are better uses locally.

It also makes Hawaii economically dependant through the 2029 military lease deadline which is our chance to reclaim land taken during the illegal Hawaiian overthrow.

To route our children, kindergarten through twelfth grade,for defense career pathways is digusting and reprehensible.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:31:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clinton Brewer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not allow this. I oppose . Thank you

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:36:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Kamehanaokala Mattos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

my name is Lahela Mattos and I'm writing to express my deep opposition to SB3240. This bill only further contributes to the current issues that our people face, appropriating funding for sectors that already utilize a large amount of taxpayer monies. This bill has no clear benefit to the taxpayers and residents of Hawai'i, but instead creates the conditions to benefit and make wealthy, the stakeholders that do not reside here, and who do not face the consequences of overtourism, militarism, and the increasing affordability crisis. The people of Hawai'i have been clear about their stance on militarism in Hawai'i since before the illegal overthrow of the kingdom; and that stance is 'A'OLE MA'ANE'I, NOT HERE. This bill proposes further appropriations for a military that already has a multi-billion dollar budget, yet shows no benefit to the community of Hawai'i. With the current spending on defense and tourism, Native Hawaiians and Local families already experience high levels of displacement, job insecurity, housing shortages, and overcrowding of our public infrastructure. For these reasons, along with many others, I OPPOSE SB3240.

aloha,

Lahela Mattos

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:50:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Military out of Hawai'i. This bill is horrific and the last thing this state needs. Enough is enough.
Demilitarize Hawai'i.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:54:26 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition to this measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:04:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The people of Hawaii don't need this expenditure. The money could do more for us at this time when it is military ventures that are making things so very financially difficult for individuals and families, driving up prices on essential goods. Let's not buy a dress for a pig!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:21:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please OPPOSE this bill. Hawai'i cannot continue to indoctrinate its children and bind its society to the US military-industrial complex. Current events in West Asia should remind us of the cost of war. So many social services could be provided for the cost of even just one day of war. So many innocent lives have already been lost or doomed by the destruction. So many lands have been poisoned. So many cultural and historical sites have been damaged. So many military and defense production sites have been targeted. Does 1941 ring any bells? Stop this nonsense.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:26:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and urge you to defer this measure which seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

As a mother concerned about the health and welfare of my keiki, and future generations, I implore you not to appropriate the original request of \$1.3 million, nor another cent to fund a public relations campaign to expand the so-called defense industries in Hawai'i.

Simply put, this bill would allow increased access to our precious keiki in public schools under the guise of "workforce development with evolving industrial and defense related needs."

In other words, this would expose our students in grades kindergarten through twelve to align with the military industrial complex instead of focusing on peace-making and conflict resolution studies and investments in collective care to meet the needs of our community.

Hawai'i's government has no business in promoting the Department of War's agenda of imperialism and killing fields. Fund the people of Hawai'i's needs, NOT the U.S. war machine!

Please oppose and defer SB3240.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:04:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Allison Shiozaki, and I live on Moku O Keawe. I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3240. I think by now it should be abundantly clear to anyone with a conscious that the US Military has been complicit in genocide and an out and out perpetrator of war crimes now. It is the world's largest consumer of fossil fuels and also the world's largest polluter. It is thus by definition of what stands in between people around world and safety. The idea that this body would vote in favor of indoctrinating our children and perpetuating the US military's further presence, which by it's very nature makes Hawai'i Nei a target, is extremely poor judgment at best. The US military has poisoned the wai, kai, lani and 'āina. 2029 is our off ramp. We need the military OUT, we need them to clean up, and we need to focus on the protecting the future, which hangs precariously in front of not just future generations any more, but all of us.

Me ke aloha,

Allison Shiozaki

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:24:49 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

As a kupuna to eight mo'opuna, ranging in age from 23 to 9 years of age, I am frankly aghast at the concept of establishing a "pipeline" for indoctrinating children and youth into what amounts to a military-industrial complex, including manufacture of arms, based in the Pacific!!

I began reading decades ago about the "School to Prison Pipeline" in publications of organizations committed to breaking down the institutionalized racism commonly embedded in law enforcement in Black, Latino, and other economically depressed communities on the Continent. It was a revelation to me. Since then, I think many of us have become aware that Hawai'i's law enforcement and juvenile justice systems have operated on similar prejudices against Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

If I understand SB3240 correctly, this bill seeks to appropriate funds to DBED and Tourism to "strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities".

To think that Hawai'i's legislators would devise a system for inculcating values of militarism and war in our youth is abhorrent to me. The popular media glorifies enough of such activity!

Rather, we need to appropriate funds for programs that develop cultural pride; and communication and vocational skills in our children and youth. We need to affirm and help them pursue the values and tools of collaboration and peacemaking.

I urge you to vote against SB3240 SD1!

Mahalo nui loa,

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uano

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:33:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure, which seeks to make Hawaii a Pacific arms hub by creating a student-to-military pipeline beginning in kindergarten. Military indoctrination has no place in our schools at all, and is especially dangerous when children face this kind of coercion at such a young and impressionable age.

I urge you to please HOLD SB3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:36:03 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Juett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:44:00 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators

Do not support this bill.

There is nothing good about it.

The state of Hawaii does not need to cede more land and more local people to the military complex.

Enough already.

They are taking away the soul of Hawaii.

please oppose this bill. it is a very bad idea.

Mahalo for doing the right thing for our Ohana here not the folks over there.

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:45:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Mary True from Pepe`ekeo, 96783, strongly oppose this bill. It looks like indoctrination to me and will siphon off money desperately needed for more priority projects such as feeding our keiki lunch and keeping roofs over our kapuna's heads. Repairing infrastructure, etc.

Aloha and mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 11:54:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,
Please vote down SB3240.

Why put State money into indoctrinating children and doing PR for the military, when the military has billions of dollars it could use for this?

mahalo,
Cory Harden

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:58:32 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members -

I am writing in **STRONG** opposition to SB3240. This bill amounts to a theft of our tax dollars for a federal department that has a budget that is out of this world.

Our tax dollars should not go to fund propaganda and military education in schools.

Please vote no on this bill - it's bad for Hawaii, both the land and humans.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:54:58 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noriko donna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Noriko Morisaki /donna, and I am a resident of Hawai‘i Island in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment concerning the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination; it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993

Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai'i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O'ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification; it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.
Please do the right thing and kill this bill.

Noriko Morisaki Donna
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:37:52 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Schweitzer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240.

Is the continuing damaging presence of this morally bereft military what we want for Hawaii? There are many good reasons to greatly reduce the military presence in Hawaii, and NO good reasons to keep it. I have heard claims that without the military, Hawaii's economy would suffer. Remember that Hawaii has almost no economy of its own; both the military and tourism support economies outside Hawaii. The economic issue is a red herring. Look at the big picture. The only healthy image of the future is one without the military in it.

Why are we trying to build friendly relations with the military? The state government should be doing the opposite, as the Hawaii County Council has, passing resolutions to limit and reduce military operations, and using taxpayer funds to educate the population concerning the deleterious effects of the military presence in Hawaii, not recruit kindergarteners into military service.

The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts; they don't need money from the Hawaii State Legislature.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:02:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Ellison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Mina Ellison and I am a resident of Hawai‘i Island in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993

Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai'i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O'ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.
Please do the right thing and stop this bill from moving forward.

Mina Elison
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:04:01 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Jewell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident I oppose bill SB3240 SD1. I do not feel Hawaii should take funds away from all the needs of our community to support the military.

Jean Jewell

96725

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:05:20 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Hauserman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Moku o Keawe. I am testifying against this bill. I do not support my tax dollars being funneled toward defense career pipelines or further militarization of Hawai'i. This bill is HEWA.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:07:01 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:02:16 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition of SB3240 as an individual.

We already pay a significant amount of our federal tax dollars to fund the military, which this year has \$1.42 Trillion in resources. At the same time, the state is facing a budget crisis due in large part to cuts in federal funding under this administration. There is absolutely no need for the state to subsidize this behemoth federal entity with local tax dollars.

Our limited state funds should be allocated to build and bolster our local economy and social infrastructure that benefits OUR residents and communities.

I strongly oppose this measure that would lead to further militarization of Hawaii and our keiki.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee oppose SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Joie Yonamine

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:02:31 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

PLEASE OPPOSE BILL SB3240 SD!!!

As a concerned resident of Hawai‘i Island, I am in strong opposition to this bill SB3240 SD1 and if you really care about this aina and her people so will you!

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

We don't need a deepening of Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Where is the transparency and what is the intent of this legislation based on its timing? If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993 Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai‘i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O‘ahu residents.

Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future for which our community has asked.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
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This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts! Please do the right thing and kill this bill.

Thank you for hearing my plea,

Susan Bambara
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:21:17 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Singer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

I’m writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai‘i AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, “Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...” They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for "defense-related needs". If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War's agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely
Steven Singer

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:37:36 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Greenleaf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no. SB3240 SD1 is the wrong message for school kids...aloha is what they need to experience as they grow into healthy citizens, not fear and war.

Mahalo

Bill Greenleaf

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:44:31 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kelia Meneses and I'm writing this statement to show my deep opposition to SB3240. A bill that only further contributes to the current issues that Hawaiians and displaced Kanaka already face, appropriating funding for sectors that already use a large amount of taxpayer monies. SB3240 has no clear benefit to the taxpayers of Hawai'i, but instead creates the conditions to benefit and make wealthy, the stakeholders that do not even reside here and who do not face the consequences of overtourism, militarism, and the increasing affordability crisis. Hawaiians and Kanaka have been very clear about our stance against the Military and Tourism since before our Kingdom was illegally overthrown and our Queen shot in cold blood, and that stance is A'OLE MA'ANE'I, NOT HERE. Keep Hawaiian lands, in Hawaiian hands. SB3240 only proposed further appropriations for a military that already has a multi-million dollar budget, yet the people of Hawai'i and the community get no benefit. With the current spending on defense and tourism, Kanaka and local families already experience high levels of displacement, job insecurity, housing shortages, and overcrowding of our infrastructure. For all of these reasons, I, Kelia Meneses, along with many other, OPPOSE SB3240.

March 12, 2026

Aloha, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

My name is Deborah Ward. I am a farmer on the island of Hawaii, and members of my family have served in the military. My son's life and happiness were forever affected by his injuries while in the military. **I stand in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.**

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

SB3240 proposes “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

I am appalled that the Hawaii legislature would even consider funding a bill that would indoctrinate our kindergartners with military slogans and worse. The U.S. military and the defense industry are funded to the point that they can buy pianos, steaks and lobster with the money allocated by Congress, They can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts!

Gary Hooser has correctly pointed out that “Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military's footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administration's Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.”

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ward

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:48:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Farina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please- before 9am today Thursday 03/12 - Urgent – SB3240 Please Please Please – Join me TODAY in offering testimony in opposition!

SB3240 is scheduled to be heard by PBS on Friday, 03-13-26 9:00AM in House conference room 411 – so testimony must be submitted NOW and before 9am in order to be “on time”. SHORT testimony is ok!

Here is what I sent in – Please put something into your own words (or borrow some of mine) and keeping it short and to the point is fine.

Please also share with your friends and networks, and go here to submit testimony and read the bill
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=3240&year=2026

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

I’m writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military footprint in Hawai‘i AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. military history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at

best...for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

SB3240 proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, “Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...” They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for “defense-related needs”. If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War’s agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
Christine Farina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:49:48 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Stillwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strong oppose SB 3240. As a community member in Hawai'i and mother of a young child, it is disturbing to consider the impact of this bill on the islands, the 'āina, future generations and our global family.

I urge members to oppose this bill and prevent it from being enacted.

I cannot communicate strongly enough about how much damage this bill could do to the welfare of our ecosystems - biological, educational, environmental and historical. It would be a detriment to all of this bill succeeds.

I urge you to protect the 'āina, the keiki, and stop this bill from moving forward.

Mahalo nui,

Lindsey

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:56:30 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing today in to encourage all in this committee to defer SB3240. I am strongly in opposition to SB3240 as the implication of this bill hurts and belittles our community.

SB3240 requested the appropriate funds in the amount of \$1.3 million to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In this turmoil time in war this funding is needed to support our local community with homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry should not seek monitory funds from the state as they are appropriate by congress to pay for their own public relations efforts.

The importance of MACRO, is an agency of the State of Hawaii that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

The community concerns and opposition to further expand the U.S. militaries holdings in Hawai'i AND given the current state of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" AND given the destruction and devastation now over 10 days in the MidEast – not to mention the U.S. militaries track records of the horrible damage conducted at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa are just a few to name– I strongly fine that it is inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not allow and certainly not fund any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students. What we should be teaching diplomacy, ethics, and democracy skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War’s agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Gloria Garcia

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:56:55 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
H. Doug Matsuoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In light of current military funding and spending, and cuts to safety net programs, please, NO on this bill.

Mahalo

H. Doug Matsuoka

Alewa

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:58:25 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Weingarten	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erin Weingarten, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB3240. This bill serves to increase Hawai'i's economic and social dependence on the US military and defense industry. The people of Hawai'i are calling for increased self-determination, environmental restoration, and accountability for the harms caused by militarization. This bill moves us in the opposite direction. Hawai'i residents already contribute to the U.S. military through federal taxes that fund one of the largest military budgets in the world. Our state should not also be using local taxpayer dollars to further subsidize that system. SB3240 would direct state resources toward strengthening defense-sector pipelines and partnerships. The people of Hawai'i are desperate for more resources towards housing, food security, healthcare, and local business development. Hawai'i already has one of the highest costs of living and military driven economies inflate housing and land prices. Equally concerning is the proposal to expand defense-oriented career pathways for students starting in K-12 education. Schools should be places where young people are supported in developing critical thinking, creativity, and diverse career possibilities. Schools should not be extensions of military workforce programs. Hawai'i's keiki deserve opportunities that nurture community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, cultural knowledge, and sustainable local economies. Hawai'i has already borne significant costs from the military presence in our islands—environmental contamination, land dispossession, and ongoing risks to public health and ecosystems. Incidents such as the fuel contamination crisis at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility illustrate the profound consequences of military infrastructure on our communities and resources. Rather than expanding financial and institutional ties to the defense industry, the State of Hawai'i should be investing in sectors that directly support the wellbeing and resilience of our communities. These include local agriculture, renewable energy, education, healthcare, cultural revitalization, and ecological restoration. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote "NO" on SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Erin

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:58:55 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Lukasinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our defense budget is already extraordinarily high while our basic and communal infrastructure needs are being neglected. Please don't funnel more funds to the military, especially when the pentagon has failed audits for many years and we have hungry children in our communities.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:01:44 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 10:04 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

The military presence in Hawai‘i has consistently demonstrated to the community that their primary objective is not to safeguard the local population or preserve the islands. Instead, they prioritize protecting the interests of the government they represent. It's imperative that measures are taken to prevent further exploitation of these valuable islands and their limited resources, which are being harmed and contaminated. I strongly oppose SB3240 and you should too! Enough is enough! Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Keke M.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:15:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 10:04 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Kubat	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US armed forces are notorious for preying on disadvantaged people who have few-to-no options when it comes to building a career. Their recruitment strategies are designed by corrupt social scientists to lure impoverished individuals into commitments that endanger their lives and kill their souls. These strategies play on the fantasies of young men and women, leading them to believe they will become heroes, that they will be part of a force for good in the world, that signing up for military service will lead them to success and good fortune, when in fact the vast majority will end up damaged and broken in service to the most corrupt forces on the planet.

Bad enough that this happens to vulnerable teenagers but the idea of starting this process in elementary schools is utterly disgusting.

Militarization is destroying humanity. Access to the internet allows us all to witness the evil perpetrated not only by those firing the missiles but also by those who build the missiles and design the systems that launch them.

This bill is an utter disgrace to the Aloha Spirit. It should never have even gotten this far in the process.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:40:23 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 10:05 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Committee Members,

I stand in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:15:54 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:06 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana-Honua Manuel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Nana-Honua Manuel and I live in Volcano on Moku o Keawe. I have 4 grown children & 7 mo'opuna. I strongly oppose this terrible bill. Hawaii has been occupied by the American Military for 133 years. I challenge anybody to attempt to put a "dollar" value on how that continuing occupation has benefitted America and it's military industrial complex. Enough is enough. No new leases, no new entities to extend those stolen benefits to the occupier, no more indoctrination of the next generation. Just last week a trillion dollars worth of armaments were discharged in the Middle East in what may just be the begining of World War III. What are you legislators thinking? I would remind each of you that the State of Hawaii is a keiki (see Blacks Law definition-direct lineal descendant) of the insurgent Committee of Safety. Someday, soon I hope, there will be a reckoning & I hope each of your legacies will be something to be proud of and that each of you go down in history as having protected and served the people of Hawaii. HRS still contains the underlying laws of the nuetral Hawaiian Kingdom and tthose underlying principles are why the militaries FEIS's for all it's expiring leases were rejected by the BLNR/DLNR. Please do not enable the further prostitution of occupied Hawaii to the American Military.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:17:51 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:11 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve LaFleur	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop the war in Iran!!! No more funds for war!!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:18:46 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:12 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Gaylord	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha?

As kānaka i do NOT support strengthening Hawai'i's relationship with the military. The military have brought little good and significant harm to locals and kānaka! Our tax dollars should be spent on housing, food, education and medicine for our people NOT funneled through the military forcing keiki to sacrifice their lives to get a bit of department of war socialism. Military propoganda and pipelines for our kids directly into the military industrial complex is hewa. This feeds a vicious cycle of keeping locals poor with the promise of affordability and education if they just sign up for a lifetime of trauma and maybe death. Do not use our money to groom kids from a young age for this purpose! Vote against this legislation.

Mahalo,

Carol Gaylord

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:44:59 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:13 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240
Tina Marie Even

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:57:44 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:14 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Kohn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not take away this funding

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 11:26:59 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:28 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's inconceivable - especially at a time the US has demonstrated YET AGAIN that war and profits are its only goal - you would put forth this bill. The US is spending a BILLION dollars a day on an illegal and terroristic war on top of an obscenely huge military budget, all the while cutting benefits and services to ordinary Americans. And as hunger and homelessness spread all over the islands you want to offer them our tax dollars to recruit and propogandise our children into their endless wars?

SHAME - KILL THIS BILL!

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA
PHILLIP L. MALLORY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
DIRECTOR
JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

March 11, 2026

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawaii National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB3240 SD1.

This important legislation signifies a crucial investment in enhancing intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities. It allocates funding to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO). MACRO acts as a vital link between Hawaii's military and civilian sectors by promoting mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues significant to both the Department of Defense and the State of Hawaii.

By providing essential funding, this legislation will enable MACRO to continue fostering collaboration and communication among military, local, state, and federal entities. This investment will help maintain an environment where trust and understanding can flourish, benefiting Hawaii's residents while supporting national security objectives. Ultimately, this investment will aid MACRO in building a more cohesive relationship between the military and the people of Hawaii—one that honors shared values and advances the interests of our state and our nation.

The Hawaii National Guard, Department of Defense, supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

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

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Friday, March 13, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully submits testimony **in support** of SB3240 SD1. MACRO serves as the State's day-to-day connector between military commands, state and county agencies, schools, businesses, and community stakeholders helping partners navigate issues that rarely fall within a single agency's lane, from installation infrastructure needs and land coordination to workforce alignment and economic opportunity planning. As defense activity and federal investment in Hawai'i continue, this centralized coordination role has become increasingly essential to keeping projects moving efficiently and ensuring the benefits reach local communities.

In practice, this work is highly operational. MACRO has supported efforts that connect local companies with federal buyers and contracting pathways, helped align community college and training programs with shipyard and industrial workforce needs, coordinated with installations and state agencies to address infrastructure and community interface challenges, and convened cross-sector partners to streamline communication during high-impact projects. These examples demonstrate how targeted capacity within one office can remove barriers, accelerate timelines, and translate federal activity into jobs, contracts, and tangible outcomes for Hawai'i residents. Additional resources would allow us to scale these efforts statewide and respond more proactively as opportunities arise.

Specifically, this funding would support:

- (1) business readiness and compliance assistance to help Hawai'i companies navigate federal procurement and cybersecurity requirements;
- (2) strengthened education-to-career pathways through partnerships with schools, community colleges, and training providers that connect residents to internships, apprenticeships, and direct placement in defense and industrial base careers; and
- (3) targeted initiatives that grow in-state manufacturing, repair, and sustainment capacity, reducing reliance on off-island supply chains and keeping federal dollars circulating locally.

We are grateful for any support in MACRO's coordination and workforce capacities, as this measure would improve public service, economic resilience, and Hawai'i's ability to capture and retain federal opportunities that benefit our communities statewide. Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued support of efforts that strengthen both our readiness and local economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

**Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair**

**RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:05 am**

**Friday, March 13, 2026, at 9:00AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference**

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 3240 Senate Draft 1 (SB3240 SD1), which appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO) to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

SB3240 SD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military & Defense. The military constitutes a significant portion of the State's economic and workforce landscape, supporting thousands of local jobs, small businesses, and education-to-career pathways. Maintaining strong, consistent community relations is essential to ensuring a positive and productive working relationship between the military and the public.

The Chamber supports the mission of MACRO: "... to promote positive relationships between Hawai'i's military and civilian sectors by fostering mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues important to both the United States Department of Defense and the State of Hawai'i." Given Hawai'i's geopolitical importance, the Chamber believes supporting a positive military-community relationship is especially important as international relations, technologies, and workforce needs continue to evolve. MACRO's dedication to creating opportunities for workforce development, contributing towards emergency preparedness, community leadership through infrastructure improvement, and increasing access to contract opportunities for local businesses makes the Office a powerful agent within the business landscape. Such efforts in community partnership result in improvements in economic resilience and community resilience at large. An investment in MACRO is an investment in a resilient economy marked by military partnership.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3240 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawai'i's economy and securing Hawai'i's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030

Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.



Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety

Friday, March 13, 2026
9:00AM Conference Room 411

RE: SB3240 SD1 DBEDT/Military and Community Relations Office - Oppose

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce, we submit this testimony to oppose SB3240 SD1. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, entrepreneurs, creatives, and sole proprietors across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

We recognize that the military has long been part of Hawai'i's economic landscape, and constructive dialogue between military and civilian sectors is important. At the same time, many small businesses are primarily seeking fair access to opportunities, transparency in contracting, and an economic strategy that strengthens Hawai'i's diversification and long-term resilience, rather than increasing reliance on any single sector.

According to the State's own Military and Community Relations Office, Department of Defense spending already accounts for roughly 8.3 percent of Hawai'i's GDP, making it the second-largest sector in the state economy, while military activities utilize approximately 221,000 acres of land statewide. These figures illustrate that the military presence in Hawai'i is already substantial.

SB3240 also emphasizes connecting K-12 education and workforce pathways to defense-related careers. While workforce development is critically important, Hawai'i's education and workforce systems should prepare students for a broad range of industries that meet the everyday needs of our communities, including energy, housing, agriculture, healthcare, arts and culture, and local entrepreneurship.

Additionally, strong military-community relationships must include

**Hawaii Legislative
Council Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

transparency, accountability, and protection of public resources, particularly in light of recent events such as the Red Hill water contamination crisis, which highlighted the importance of safeguarding public health, water resources, and community trust.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce believes Hawai'i's economic future will be strongest when public policy supports a diversified, locally rooted, and resilient economy that complements existing sectors while building new ones.

Respectfully submitted.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:18:34 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & PBS Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide we stands in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 that appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

We find this legislation focused on indoctrinating our children starting in kindergarten to choose the military as a career path to be particularly concerning and essentially unethical. Of special concern is where this measure states *“The legislature also believes that strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways, and to align workforce development with Hawaii’s evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”*

There is great concern nationally that the U.S. is sliding into Fascism, with our president illegally kidnapping the president of Venezuela, illegally murdering the leader of Iran, and I.C.E. Agents acting like Gestapo, facing no consequences for murdering innocent unarmed citizens in the street. The slide into Fascism isn't quick, it's slow and methodical. The slide starts out subtly and innocently. For example the Nazis in Germany started out with popular cultural youth camps to indoctrinate their children. This legislation looks too much like another step in the direction of the Fascist tendency already growing in our country, which should be a great concern for all of us.

Further, the US military does not need any more help from Hawaii tax payers' tight budgets to recruit students into their services. The U.S. Department of War budget for 2026 is \$1.42 Trillion. The U.S. Military's overbloated budget is 10 times larger then the next 10 countries combined; eight of which are U.S. allies, and we are not even technically at war. By comparison, China spends \$247 billion and Russia spends only \$149 billion on their military.

The US military already has a very robust recruitment system in Hawaii with some 47 military recruiting offices across the state, and their recruiters also have access to job fairs at Hawaii High School and College Campuses. The US Department of War will spend over \$640 million on recruitment advertising this year. As our youth sit and wait to see films in our local movie theaters, advertisements flash across the screen prior to the film showing, encouraging Hawaii's

youth to “*Be all you can be!*” and join the military. It is also very well known that the military will pay for the college education of our youth when they join. Since many low-income youth cannot afford a college education, this is their only way to get a college education, which essentially creates a poverty draft.

In what government watchdog groups are calling “Lobstergate,” the U.S. Department of War is so overly funded that in September 2025 it blew \$93 billion in a spending spree which included nonessential luxury items such as \$7 million on lobster tails, \$2 million on Alaskan king crab, \$15 million on ribeye steak, and \$98,329 for a Steinway Grand Piano. To add insult to injury the Pentagon doesn't even keep track of the money they waste and failed its eighth consecutive annual audit in December 2025, remaining the only major federal agency to never pass their audit.

As we are all aware, Hawaii has an over dependence on the military for financial income for the state. The problem with this over dependence on the military is that it sidelines our state away from cultivating other revenue streams to build Hawaii's economic stability that is not overly dependent on the military.

Legislation like this is siloing our youth into a “dead end” career path. The funds being requested would be much better used to help inspire and prepare Hawaii youth for essential careers that our people need and will be very beneficial to Hawaii like teaching, medicine, sustainable agriculture, and clean renewable energy.

Please VOTE NO on SB3240 SD1, because Hawaii tax payers cannot afford to waste our hard earned tax money on recruitment for the extremely well funded U.S. Department of War.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 411 or via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 3240 SD1.

The 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.

Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an essential role in strengthening coordination between Hawai'i's military commands, state and county agencies, educational institutions, and community partners. As federal investment and defense activity continue to grow, the need for a centralized, trusted point of coordination has become increasingly important to ensure projects advance efficiently and that benefits reach Hawai'i's residents.

MACRO's work directly supports Hawai'i's economic resilience and workforce development. The office helps local companies navigate federal procurement pathways, aligns education and training programs with defense-sector workforce needs, and facilitates communication among agencies during high-impact projects. These efforts translate federal activity into local jobs, contracts, and long-term opportunities for Hawai'i's communities.

SB 3240 SD1 provides the resources needed to expand this work statewide and ensure Hawai'i continues to benefit from its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. For these reasons, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB3240 SD1
Before the House Committee on Public Safety (PBS)
Friday, March 13, 2026 — 9:00 AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully **opposes SB3240 SD1, RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

SB3240 SD1 asserts that:

“strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways... aligned with Hawaii’s evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

The Caucus has significant concerns with this language. The bill explicitly seeks to integrate K–12 students into defense-sector workforce pipelines, including early college, internships, and direct-to-career tracks tied to military-driven industrial needs. This is not an appropriate role for Hawai'i's public education system, nor is it aligned with the values of communities most impacted by military contamination and land use.

The bill further states that its purpose is to:

“strengthen Hawaii’s defense-related workforce pathways, local business readiness, and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity... to capture and retain federal investment.”

This framing prioritizes defense-sector economic interests over community health, environmental protection, and the rights of Native Hawaiian and subsistence-dependent families.

The Environmental Caucus offers the following concerns:

1. K–12 students should not be targeted for defense-sector workforce development. Public education must serve the needs of children, not the labor requirements of defense-industry programs.

2. The bill does not address the environmental and public health harms associated with defense-related activities. Communities such as Waimānalo, Wai‘anae, and Red Hill continue to experience contamination, including PFAS, fuel releases, and ecosystem disruption.
3. Native Hawaiian and subsistence communities are disproportionately impacted. These communities rely on nearshore waters for food security, subsistence fishing, and cultural practices — all of which are threatened by expanding defense-sector industrialization.
4. Economic resilience cannot be built on deeper structural dependence on defense spending. Hawai‘i needs diversified, sustainable economic pathways that do not increase environmental risk or federal dependency.
5. The bill expands the authority and funding of the Military and Community Relations Office without safeguards. There is no requirement for environmental review, cultural impact assessment, or community consultation.

Environmental Caucus Position

The Environmental Caucus supports:

1. Food security for Hawai‘i residents.
2. Protection of subsistence fishing communities.
3. Native Hawaiian cultural practices and access rights.
4. Environmental justice and public health protections.
5. Diversified, sustainable economic development.

SB3240 SD1 conflicts with these values by prioritizing defense-sector workforce expansion over community well-being, environmental protection, and the rights of Native Hawaiian and subsistence-dependent families.

Conclusion

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to hold **SB3240 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-Chair

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair Emerita

Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:25:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Gren Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and honorable members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we are in complete and total shock that this bill has made it to the Public Safety Committee. On behalf of our members we are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 . This bill is not in the best interest of safety at all ! By turning our children into soldiers / defense contractors this is a very big dystopian nightmare scenario. Our children are not for sale to the military contractors. This is a fake economy. one that will harm the workers and only make the Defense Companies wealthy beyond belief.

Hawaii's' Keiki should not be targets for a pipeline of workers to feed the Military Industrial Complex. We have another vision of a healthy world for our communities where children grow up , not with blood and war games on their minds , but one where the water is clean, the air is some of the purest in the world, and the land has ceased to be poisoned by the military with their back room deals with our Governor. We have LOTS of clean up to do as the military has been poisoning our Islands for generations. The military is not a good steward of the land.

This vision, is for a sustainable Hawai'i that provides cultural value, family values, and a way of life that we can be sure no one's child is killed by military equipment with a "Made in Hawai'i " stamp. This is not our legacy! The military is not a good steward of the Hawaiian Kingdom .

The Green Party of Hawaii recognizes we are on stolen lands , and we are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 .

Mahalo ,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 1:34:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	The Hard Rain Working Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast - PLUS the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples - I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

According to publicly available information, **MACRO** has hired a public relations agency to, **"Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues..."** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant seeds of support and counter community opposition.

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Gary Hooser

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 12:49:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoʻolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD 1

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD 1.**

As retired preschool – 12 + educators, we **strongly oppose SB 3240** that would promote and normalize war. Do not use taxpayer monies to advance military propaganda in Hawai‘i. Instead, support and allow the next generation to learn the value of “let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me,” promoting the simple aloha ideals of the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated.

IMMEDIATELY NO to SB 3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:34:57 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Public Safety Committee Members!

The Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB3240 SD1! **Please defer this measure.**

SB3240 SD1 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office. The original committee recommendation appears to have been \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, the U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts and shouldn't be funded, among other purposes, to go into our public schools.

Mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:16:58 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Clean the Pacific	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We seriously oppose this bill. Am I to believe that the government is asking us to pay to be fed propaganda? I think that this nation has had quite enough of a authoritarian propaganda. I'm guessing that not one single citizen in the state of Hawaii would be in favor of giving the US military money to advertise their misguided ventures. I think that you can be sure about this vote. Now is the time for Good leaders to stand up against this authoritarian takeover and stopping propaganda is the first step. Don't let this administration intimidate you. I promise, your courage to support the will of the people will be rewarded. Thanks very much.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:50:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Lokahi Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE this SCAM and spend it on the homeless!!

Mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:09:55 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice-chair Iwamoto and member of the House Public Safety Committee

My name is Ronald Fujiyoshi. I am the treasurer of Ohana Ho`opakele, a Native Hawaiian Organization listed with the Pohakuloa Training Area.

Ohana Ho`opakele does not believe that the U.S. Military has been a good neighbor for Hawai`i. It has not cleaned up after testing weapons at Pohakuloa, it has contaminated the water at Red Hill, and it brings an element of violence that does not resonate with the aloha spirit of Hawai`i. We believe that Hawai`i would be better off without the U.S. Military present.

Thus, we request that your committee defer SB3240 which makes our beloved Hawai`i complicit with the violence that the U.S. Military represents worldwide.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:38:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office The request was \$1.3 million.

Surely you can find better ways to spend taxpayers money than providing PR money for the US military. Just look all around us --see the needs for feeding the hungrey, housing the homelss, etc. etc. If you want to spend money on the military -- investigate the toxic contamination at Pohakuloa -- like Depleted Uranium oixide particles and other toxins blowing in the wind, contaminating the land, and threatening the aquifers of Hawaii Island. Defer or shelve this current bill SB 3240.

Fund Peace and aloha as Hawaii's beacons for the world, not the US war machine. Mahalo.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:42:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We needed to diversify our economy but not by making Hawaii into a military state and target for military aggression from small minded tyrants. This is a horrible proposal for use of limited state funds What a dismal future it is offering our children

The Strongest Opposition to SB 3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 11:18:13 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DORIAN CABANTING	The Queens Court	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to SB3240 SD1.

This bill seeks to appropriate taxpayer funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) specifically to "strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities." I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. **Misalignment of State Priorities:** Hawai'i is currently facing a dire affordable housing crisis, rising costs of living, and urgent climate adaptation needs. State funds and administrative energy should be directed toward community-led economic diversification and local sustainability, not toward the further expansion of military-industrial interests.
2. **Increased Military Dependency:** By investing in "defense-related workforce development" and "business readiness" for military sustainment, the State is doubling down on an economic model that tethers our local workforce to federal defense spending. We should instead be investing in green energy, diversified agriculture, and technology that serves the needs of the people of Hawai'i.
3. **Community Impact:** The term "Military and Community Relations" often serves as a veneer for streamlining military expansion. Our islands already host a disproportionate military presence which has led to significant environmental and social challenges. Strengthening "intergovernmental coordination" for defense activities often happens at the expense of transparent community consultation and environmental protections.

The people of Hawai'i need an economy that is resilient and self-sufficient. SB3240 SD1 moves us in the opposite direction by subsidizing the infrastructure of the military-industrial complex with state funds.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **OPPOSE** this bill.



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street - Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone (808) 935-7178 - Fax (808) 961-4435 - Email exec@hicc.biz - www.hicc.biz

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Geoli Ng

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Nimr Tamimi

Jennifer Tobey

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Irene Yamanaka

Tracie Yoshimoto

Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military & Community Relations Office - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 350 businesses and individual members primarily on the east side of Hawai'i Island, I am writing in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3240 SD1 (SB3240 SD1)**. This measure appropriates funds to the Military and Community Relations Office (within DBEDT) to enhance intergovernmental coordination, communication, and program administration for defense-related activities, including workforce development, local business readiness, and in-state advanced manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

Hawai'i's economy benefits greatly from federal defense investments, yet structural challenges persist. According to UHERO, when accounting for local living costs, income and productivity growth in Hawai'i have consistently fallen behind the national average. Maximizing the impact of defense resources requires strong coordination between state and federal partners, alignment of workforce development programs, and expanded in-state sustainment capacity.

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an important role in bridging Hawai'i's civilian and military sectors. Through partnerships with industry, education, and government, MACRO helps connect local businesses to federal contracting opportunities, supports workforce training aligned with defense industry needs, and strengthens communication across agencies and stakeholders.

SB3240 SD1 also aligns with the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i's 2030 Blueprint for Hawai'i's Military & Defense policy pillar, which emphasizes leveraging defense-related opportunities to grow local businesses, create high-wage jobs, and strengthen the state's industrial base. Funding MACRO will support workforce development, improve business readiness, and expand in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce respectfully asks you to **PASS Senate Bill 3240 SD1**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:51:05 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the committee.

My name is Cristina Holt. I am a resident of Hilo, Hawaii Island, and I strongly oppose SB 3240 SD1.

This bill is about timing, propaganda, and tightening the military's grip on Hawaii. It is hiding behind the mask of workforce development.

Military leases on Hawaiian land come up for renegotiation in 2029. That is one of the most significant opportunities Hawaii has had in decades to reclaim land, to reassess the terms of the military's presence here, and for Native Hawaiians to reclaim land that was taken in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and has never been returned. Everyone in this building knows that deadline is coming.

This bill is timed to move through the 2026 session specifically to make sure Hawaii cannot take that off ramp. It embeds our workforce pipeline, our community colleges, our manufacturing base, and our children's career expectations so deeply into the defense economy that walking away from military leases in 2029 becomes politically and economically unthinkable. The bill language makes that explicit. It calls for aligning Hawaii's workforce with "evolving industrial and defense-related needs." It calls for connecting local companies to "federal procurement pathways." That is not workforce development. That is manufactured dependency, timed on purpose.

And they want our kids!?

The bill calls for integrating students from kindergarten through twelfth grade into career pathways aligned with "defense-related needs." Kindergarten. Five years old. The Department of Defense already has a \$1.42 trillion budget, 47 military recruiting offices across Hawaii, ads in our movie theaters, and a college payment program that functions as a poverty draft for families who cannot afford tuition any other way. They do not need Hawaii taxpayers building them another pipeline starting at age five.

They also want our state tax dollars to fund their propaganda.

MACRO, the office this bill funds, was created in 2024 using a federal grant that exists specifically to fund military entrenchment in communities near installations. It runs a podcast. It places promotional segments on HI Now Daily. It produces economic impact studies designed to make the case for military spending to increase and never cease. It is not a neutral state office. It is a communications operation whose mission is to make Hawaii's civilian population more comfortable with military dependence. The Pentagon built that infrastructure with federal money. Now they want Hawaii taxpayers to make it permanent. That is not what our money is for.

We are being asked to do all of this at the worst possible moment. The United States is currently engaged in an illegal war invasion against Iran. How can this body even CONSIDER funding their propaganda? Especially under these circumstances and at this time?

The defense sector this bill wants to pipeline our children into includes Palantir, Anduril, Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and more; companies that are actively building autonomous weapons systems, targeting algorithms, and mass surveillance infrastructure. Deepening Hawaii's military footprint does not make us safer. It makes us a bigger target. That is not a fringe position. It is strategic logic.

And the military has never earned our trust.

The Navy's Red Hill facility contaminated the primary drinking water source for nearly 100,000 Oahu residents. The military knew, said nothing, minimized it, delayed, and fought accountability at every step. At Pohakuloa on Hawaii Island, the military has operated for decades, denied documented depleted uranium contamination, and produced an Environmental Impact Statement that was found to be inadequate. Hawaii has multiple military-related Superfund sites on the EPA's list. Contaminated soil, contaminated groundwater, contaminated communities. The military created these sites, disputed responsibility, slow-walked cleanup, and then uses that contamination as an excuse not to vacate the land because it is too dangerous.

This is the institution this bill asks us to fund. This is the institution this bill asks us to route our next generations toward.

If this legislature has \$1.3 million to spend on workforce development, spend it on clean energy, food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, healthcare, education, or climate resilience. Industries that do not poison our water, bomb our sacred land, or ask us to send our children to fight in needless, illegal wars. Industries that build a future Hawaii can actually live in.

The answer to dependency is not to deepen it. It is to end this extractive, abusive relationship before it's too late.

I strongly oppose SB 3240 SD1. I ask this committee to hold it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cristina Holt Hilo, Hawaii Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:27:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

A watchdog group recently revealed in what some are calling “Lobstergate,” Pentagon spending that included \$6.9 million on lobster tails, \$2 million on Alaskan king crab, and \$15.1 million on ribeye steak. Moreover, based on reports regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget, the Department of War has \$1.42 Trillion in budgetary resources. All this while at the same time States are facing deep cuts in federal funding for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), amounting to hundreds of billions in cuts.

SB3240 SD1 notes what the military has been telling our communities for years, that Hawai‘i is important to the military due to “its strategic location.” Hawai‘i is so important, yet we need to use \$1,300,000, or even \$1 from what’s left of our tax dollars to court them... especially when it appears they already have so much “discretionary” funding i.e. our tax dollars, to throw around?

I strongly oppose this measure that would squander our tax dollars and lead to further militarization of Hawai‘i. We have to envision a future that does not revolve around U.S. military dominance and control. Instead, we need to support workforce development and opportunities that will *improve* life here. Our funds should be allocated to build and bolster sectors that our residents desperately need— research and development on clean transportation, building materials, energy autonomy, food sovereignty, and climate change resilience. The military is touted as an economic boon in Hawai‘i, but that viewpoint overlooks the military's extractive presence, environmental damage, and other harmful behaviors. Investing in the “defense” sector only seems like a valuable opportunity because the State is not investing enough in creating other opportunities. The State should not be directing its limited funds to feed into the most well-funded agency in the country. Period. Our taxpayer dollars should be used to support *real* economic opportunities that actually benefit our communities.

I find it particularly troubling that this bill seeks “strategic coordination” to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through high school and beyond, toward a “direct-to-career pathway”, and “to align workforce development with Hawai‘i's evolving industrial and defense-related needs.” This is insidious, and reminiscent of what occurred in Nazi Germany during Hitler’s rise to power. Treating our education system as a vehicle for indoctrination is something the legislature should be protecting us from, not enabling.

To be clear, SB3240 SD1 is the type of measure I would have expected from our war-monger president, and not from our legislature, as it violates the core values of our state. I urge the Committee to vote NO on this disgraceful measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:15:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Maki Morinoue, and I am a resident of Hawai'i Island in strong oppose of SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai'i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai'i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai'i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993

Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai‘i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O‘ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai‘i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai‘i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our ‘āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama ‘āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai‘i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai‘i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha ‘āina, not on weapons contracts.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,
Maki Morinoue
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:52:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philamer Felicitas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB3240 SD1

Relating to Defense Workforce Development

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Philamer Felicitas, and I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to SB3240 SD1.

While I understand the importance of preparing Hawai‘i’s workforce for future economic opportunities, I have serious concerns about the direction this bill takes in aligning educational pathways with defense-related industries. The bill explicitly calls for integrating exposure for students from kindergarten through grade twelve and aligning workforce development with evolving defense-related needs. This approach raises important questions about the role of the military and defense sector in shaping our education system and long-term economic priorities.

Hawai‘i’s keiki deserve educational pathways that expand their opportunities across a wide range of fields that strengthen our islands and communities. Our public education system should prioritize areas that build long-term sustainability for Hawai‘i, such as renewable energy, local food systems, cultural education, environmental stewardship, healthcare, technology, and locally rooted entrepreneurship.

Increasing alignment between K-12 education and defense workforce pipelines risks further deepening Hawai‘i’s economic dependence on military spending and federal defense priorities. Many residents already have concerns about the scale of the military footprint in our islands and

the impacts that have been felt by communities, including land use conflicts, environmental issues, and cultural concerns.

Education policy should not be used to normalize or expand defense-related career pathways for children at such an early stage. Instead, our state should invest in educational programs that empower young people to build resilient, community-based economies that reflect the values and needs of Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i has the opportunity to lead in areas such as climate resilience, ocean stewardship, sustainable agriculture, indigenous knowledge systems, and innovative local industries. Aligning our education system around these priorities would better prepare our students for a future that supports the long-term well-being of our islands.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to hold SB3240 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Philamer Felicitas

Waipahu, Hawai‘i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:57:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Hughes	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To whom it concerns.

My name is Laura Hughes, I am an Alumni of the University of Hawaii and currently am a researcher in the field of deep sea corals. I find it absolutely disgusting that this bill has advanced without opposition. I will be disrespectful when I say who do you all think you are? You will effectively provide a desk to death pipeline for Keiki of Hawaii nei whilst giving tax payer money to the federal government to kill civilians abroad. When the science is clear, funds need to be poured into climate change to prepare for the future all will have to face.

Have a day,

~Laura Hughes

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:20:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayann c	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose SB3240 , Hawaii's Money should not Fund Wars Funding Propaganda!
Thank you for your Time

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:36:42 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please OPPOSE SB3240.

This bill investing state money into the war machines and propaganda to make our children complicit in the war crimes currently taking place, is offensive.

The fact this bill has made it this far, in this geopolitical context, is just wrong. Many good bills don't even get a hearing.

If you care about protecting Hawaii, don't sign us up to be a cog in the endless war machine. If this somehow passes you will have literal blood on your hands while wasting our state tax money on an already overfunded department of war. We are counting on you to do the right thing. Kill this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:29:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong opposition of SB3240 SD1**, which seeks to strengthen our dependence on the military.

If we are providing funds to DBEDT for collaboration with educational institutions, those funds should be used to *diversify* our economy, rather than doubling down on an industry that actively harms our people and our 'āina.

This bill funnels our tax dollars into the US war machine to increase our dependence on an industry that *does not benefit our people* just before the military leases are up in 2029 and we finally have a chance to get our lands back. Do not cooperate with this attempt to use our tax dollars as a slush fund for the war machine. The perpetuation of these policies makes us a growing target at a time when the US has just started a new war in Iran!

A'ole! Please do what is pono and **oppose SB3240**.

This bill must be killed so that of our keiki and our 'āina are not.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:52:22 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3240. The U.S. Department of War has \$1.42 trillion allocated in resources, the most well-funded Dept of War in U.S. history. While Hawai'i faces cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, along with historically underfunded public education and DHHL, this bill proposes spending \$1,300,000 in state taxpayer dollars to coordinate with the Department of War.

The US says that Hawaii's "strategic location" is “vital” to the US Military. Their decades-long presence is already prevalent, extractive, and harmful. We should not be paying to court them. We should be doing everything we can to downsize their footprint, remediate the harm, and reduce future damage.

The Dept of War sector looks primarily because the State has failed to invest in alternatives. Clean transportation, energy autonomy, food sovereignty, education, climate resilience, and local workforce development. That is where this \$1.3 million belongs.

Equally alarming is this bill's facilitation of military outreach into K–12 classrooms. Kindergarteners cannot consent to recruitment. Military service is among the weightiest moral decisions a person will make; it demands a fully informed adult choice, not state-funded conditioning beginning in childhood. If our schools are to teach values, fund partnerships with institutions like the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, not pipelines to the Department of War.

It is shameful that SB 3240 receives priority hearing time while HB 2048 (requiring cleanup bonds and legislative approval for military land dispositions), HB 1916 (prohibiting live-fire training on public trust lands), and HB 2527 (repealing special federal condemnation protections) could not get hearings in the same committee. The prioritization of this bill sends a message about whose interests it serves.

Please defer SB 3240. Our keiki, our lands, and our tax dollars deserve better.

March 12, 2026

In the

LATE

**RECEIVED
Date & Time**

Mar 12, 2026, 11:07 am

Fm: Liko-o-kalani Martin

likomartinhawaii@gmail.com

Ahupuaa o Hakipu, Oahu

To: The President of the Senate of the Legislature of the
Legislature of the United States Political Subdivision aka STATE
OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii, and Chairperson and Committee Members of
the Senate Committee Members -

Cc to:

U.N. Special Repertoire on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples urgentaction@ohchr.org; and Special Repertoire
on truth, justice and reparation and guarantees of
non-recurrence. OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix,
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. **Fax:** + 41 22 917 9006
Email: hrc-sr-truth@un.org (Mr. Bernard Duhaime-[“gross
violations of human rights and serious violations of
international humanitarian law”])

Regarding: SB3240 SD1, Measure Title: RELATING TO THE
MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE—Report
Title: DBEDT; Military and Community Relations Office;
Intergovernmental Coordination; Defense-Related Workforce
Development; Advanced Manufacturing and Sustainment;
Business Readiness; Appropriation(\$)

Description—Appropriates funds to the Development of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities: effective: 7/1/20'50 (SDI) - Introducers FUKUNAGA, CHANG — Bill Scheduled to be heard on Friday, 03-13-28, 9:00 AM in the House Conference room 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

I am a living natural person, Inhabitant - descendant of the signatories to the Kue Petition, in support of Her Majesty Queen Liliuokalani's, June 17, 1897 official diplomatic letter of *"protest"*, *"duly filed" in the State Department, Washington, District of Columbia, June 18, 1897*, *"On behalf of the Hawaiian Patriotic League, on behalf of the Hui Kalaiaina organizations of the native and part-native people of the Hawaiian Islands for the restoration of Constitutional Government, and the perpetuation of the Independence under their own rulers of the Islands,(being a part of the whole of the "chief governing authority" with respect to Title 16. U.S. Code - Conservation Part A - Historic Preservation Programs), and by Commissions duly executed.... conferring upon me authority..."* as per the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, Volume I, Chapter 14, CERTAIN RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, HAWAIIANA [Civil Codes of the Hawaiian Islands 1859, MISCELLANEOUS Laws CHAPTER XXXIV....],

I am am a protected Person under the Fourth Geneva Convention (U.S. signatory 1907 - the HAGUE) residing within the "Physical Maritime Riparian and Territorial Boundaries of Ko Hawaii Pae 'Aina" aka Kingdom of Hawaii, under *"duress"* since January 16 & 17, 1893, by way of the *"unauthorized"* landing of United States

Naval Forces, in Honolulu, Oahu, in in violation of the Constitution of the United States of America, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 - "War Powers", and continuing "*violation of treaties* [1850 (Multilateral) Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation- ratified between the Kingdom of Hawaii and the United States of America"], *and of international law*", admitted by way of the facts, findings, conclusions and **outstanding** "*commitment...to acknowledge the ramifications*" in "*U.S. Public Law 103-150, Nov.23, 1993, President William J. Clinton, issuing an advisory to all members of the 2026 Session of the STATE OF HAWAII (U.S. political - " neither de jure, nor de facto" subdivision*", that in pursuance of initiating the aforementioned SB3240 SD1, you are in violation of Title 18. U.S. Code Section 1960 -"Act of June 5, 1794, Chapter 50, Statute 381, 383-384, 1794: Whoever, within the United States , knowingly begins or sets on foot or provides or prepares a means for or furnishes the money for, or takes part in, any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States is at peace, shall be fined not more than \$3,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both. In addition, the statute also prohibits other hostile activities against foreign countries with which the United States is at peace.

For the 2026 legislature to entertain and support this measure is to **incite and act in contravention** to: (1) the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1924), published by the International Save the Children Union in Geneva on 23 February 1923 as follows: 1. The child must be given the means requisite for its **normal development, both materially and spiritually**. 2.The child that

is hungry must be fed, the child that is sick must be nursed, the child that is backward must be helped, the delinquent child must be reclaimed, and **the orphan and the waif must be sheltered and succored.** 3. **The child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress.** 4. **The child must be put in a position to earn a livelihood, and must be protected against every form of exploitation.** 5. **The child must be brought up in the consciousness that its talents must be devoted to the service of its fellow men.** (The text was endorsed by the League of Nations to which the Kingdom of Hawaii was a part of, prior to its usurpation on January 17, 1893, and it was ordered to be displayed at every school in France).- t is to be noted that **The DeclarationUnited Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (ROC)**, entering into force on 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49 of the United Nations Charter; **(2)** United States *“obligations”* as a Member State of the United Nations, under the United Nations Charter Article 76, and United Nations Statute of the International Court of Justice, Article 35 through 38; **(3)** and the International Criminal Court (ICC), *“Rome Statute-Elements of Crimes” aka War Crimes - Article 8 bus 74* Crime of Aggression.

Submitted electronically by Liko-o-kalani Martin on March 12 2026.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 11:27:29 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE. In a moment where we as Kanaka O'iwi and people of Hawaii are trying to de-couple ourselves from the military due to their desecration, disrespect and lack of accountability to the people, our islands and resources, this is counterproductive and a gross extension of money and power. The military budget has been egregiously expanded on a Federal Level, let them foot the bill for coordination as well.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 12:49:14 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 for the following reasons:

- The bill directs state funds toward programs primarily supporting the military and defense industries rather than community-focused needs.
- Workforce programs tied to defense industries may narrow educational and career pathways instead of preparing students for diverse opportunities.
- Investments favor defense-related industries over locally grounded sectors such as sustainable agriculture, housing, and small business development.
- Expanding military-aligned programs ignores past incidents, such as the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility contamination, which had serious impacts on community health and trust.
- The bill does not adequately consider the long-term effects on our communities, lands, and Native Hawaiian cultural values.
- Overall, the bill prioritizes military partnerships over initiatives that directly strengthen and sustain Hawai'i's communities.

For these reasons, I ask you to oppose SB3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:43:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Makaawaawa	Nation of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

The Nation of Hawai'i respectfully opposes this bill, which would use public funds to strengthen coordination for military and defense activities in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is known as a place of peace and stewardship of the land. The values of aloha 'āina and mālama 'āina call on us to protect our islands and care for them for future generations. Continued investment in military expansion moves Hawai'i further away from these values.

The military has not been a responsible steward of Hawaiian lands. Decades of military activity have resulted in contamination of land and water, damage to ecosystems, and restricted access to cultural and ancestral sites that Native Hawaiians depend upon. These harms remain unresolved today.

It is deeply concerning that, while these issues remain unaddressed, the military has also threatened the potential seizure of additional lands if current leases are not renewed. Rewarding this history of poor stewardship and coercive pressure with additional public funding is not in the best interest of Hawai'i or its people.

Public funds should support the wellbeing of our communities and the restoration of our lands—not the expansion of military activities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Legislature to reject this measure and not pass this bill.

Aloha,

Brandon Maka'awa'awa

Vice President, Nation of Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 1:30:56 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3240 SD1.

I write in respectful opposition to SB3240 SD1 from the perspective of someone who has spent many years working in education and educational leadership.

Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand how public policy decisions shape the opportunities available to our students and the direction of our workforce. The priorities we set today influence the pathways young people are encouraged to pursue tomorrow. For this reason, I have concerns about legislation that invests state resources into expanding programs aligned primarily with the military and defense sector.

Hawai‘i already has a significant military presence and long-standing economic ties to defense spending. While that relationship has played a role in our economy, further directing public funds toward strengthening defense-related industries risks reinforcing a narrow economic pathway for our students and communities. Our educational system should prepare students for a broad range of careers that support innovation, sustainability, cultural stewardship, and locally grounded economic development.

In education, we work constantly to encourage critical thinking, civic responsibility, and a commitment to the long-term well-being of our communities. Public investment should reflect those same values. Hawai‘i faces urgent challenges in areas such as affordable housing, environmental protection, sustainable food systems, and community-based economic development. These are sectors where our students can contribute meaningfully to the future of our islands.

There is also an important lesson in recent history regarding the impacts of military infrastructure in Hawai‘i. The water contamination crisis connected to the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility profoundly affected many families, including those with children in our schools. Events like this remind us that decisions related to military expansion carry real consequences for the health and trust of the communities we serve.

As educators, we strive to ensure that the next generation inherits a Hawai‘i that is resilient, self-sufficient, and guided by responsible stewardship of our lands and resources. State investments

should reflect those long-term goals and support industries that strengthen our communities. This bill does not align with those long term goals at all.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB3240 SD1.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 2:35:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Knapp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to SB3240

Keiki do not need to be fed to a war machine, they need food, water and access to the arts.

This bill funds propaganda, not services.

MACRO is not a social services agency. It is a public relations operation — one that, by its own documentation, employs automated data scraping tools to monitor and analyze public sentiment toward the military on social media, news sites, and forums. It ghost-writes op-ed columns, drafts talking points, and issues press releases designed to shape public opinion in favor of military operations in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i taxpayers should not be funding surveillance of their own opinions or the manufacturing of consent on behalf of the U.S. military.

Bringing this messaging into our keiki’s classrooms crosses a line.

SB3240 proposes to integrate MACRO’s pro-defense industry messaging into public schools from kindergarten through grade 12 under the guise of “workforce development.” This is not education — it is recruitment and indoctrination, starting with the youngest and most impressionable members of our community.

Our state budget should reflect our community’s needs, not the military’s PR needs.

With the cost of living, housing, and healthcare crises facing Hawai‘i families, there are far more urgent uses for public funds. Appropriating money to polish the military’s image is not among them.

I respectfully urge this committee to oppose SB3240.

Alexander Knapp

Big Island District 2

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 3:43:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A Wilkie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 3:50:28 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

The FY2026 military budget is already in the hundreds of billions, projecting to exceed \$1 trillion, to aid the murder of innocent people.

Use this money for resources that people actually need.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:04:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tsonnemaker15@gmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US military has the largest budget of any single institution in the world.

Asking Hawai'i taxpayers to further subsidize the military's activities when local families are struggling to get basic needs met is bad economic policy.

We have not seen any evidence that additional funding of military activities has any direct tangible economic benefit to our communities — especially compared to the opportunity cost of investing in food security, basic income, healthcare, education, and other areas with proven returns on investment.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:16:00 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverley Brand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please kill this bill!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:25:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:44:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No way do we want this state to be a weapons center for the military or a funnel for military perspective in our schools.Please vote NO!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:58:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Greene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3240

OPPOSE

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:00:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Emery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When we create an economic system that forces so many families into the working poor category, while simultaneously promoting patriotism to pay for higher education and receiving life skills, that is a recipe for a third-world nation.

Hawaiian, multi-generational, and poor people will be the primary targets to sign up to go die in old white men's wars.

These wars aren't about self-determination or sovereignty, since Hawai'i has never relinquished its sovereignty, but are at the mercy of the colonial economic system that continuously pumps out poor people dependent on the dysfunctional and violent system.

Who benefits from war? Wealthy people, weapons manufacturers, the military industrial complex, the energy industry, and most of all the banking industry.

The time to stop using our children as fodder for the wealthy has run its course centuries ago, and yet, we are still stuck in that mentality that poor people who receive no benefits but give the most are the targets of legislation and law.

Aloha

Ben Emery

Honoka'a, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:31:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe, and I am a mother of two young children—ages six and three. I am writing in **strong opposition** to SB3240. While this bill is framed as supporting “economic resilience,” it raises serious concerns about the role of military influence in our children’s education and the direction we are choosing for Hawai‘i’s future.

As a parent, I am deeply troubled by language in this bill that seeks to “integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve” to defense-related needs. Our keiki should be learning how to read, imagine, ask questions, and care for one another—not being exposed to messaging designed to normalize or promote war. Decisions about military service, war, and diplomacy are complex moral questions that belong in the hands of informed adults, not five-year-olds just beginning their educational journeys. Yet we also know that adolescents, whose brains and judgment are still developing, are especially vulnerable to persuasive recruitment messaging and patriotic propaganda that can romanticize military service while minimizing the lifelong physical, psychological, and moral consequences of war. Young people should not be targeted by programs that normalize participation in violence before they are fully able to understand its gravity and implications.

I am also concerned about the proposed use of \$1.3 million in state funds for the Military and Community Relations Office. At a time when Hawai‘i’s public schools face ongoing shortages in teachers, classroom resources, and student support, those funds should be directed toward strengthening education itself—not toward programs that encourage alignment with the military-industrial complex.

Finally, many families in Hawai‘i are already grappling with the environmental and cultural impacts of military activity across our islands—from the Red Hill fuel contamination of O‘ahu’s aquifer to contamination and ecological damage at training areas across the state. **Expanding efforts to align our children with this industry ignores the very real harms our communities and ‘āina have experienced. The state should be investing in a diversified, sustainable economy that addresses the cost of living, climate resilience, and the well-being of our communities—not building deeper dependence on military expansion.**

As a mother, I want my children’s schools to be places of learning, curiosity, and possibility—not recruitment pipelines or training grounds for future militarization. I respectfully urge you to

vote **NO on SB3240** and protect our classrooms as spaces dedicated to education, not military alignment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:42:11 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamuela Park	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed the use of taxpayer money to continue growing our dependency on the United States military for our State economy. The citizens of Hawaii have been strongly voicing our desire to demilitarize Hawaii. The passing of this bill would only further prove that our government is deaf to the voices of the people they represent.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:58:26 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Takamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240! We are tired of funding the war machine

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:05:12 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No military propaganda with tax payer dollars. This is a gross misuse of funds. Divert this \$ into supporting teachers, after school programs, ANYTHING else.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:08:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:10:03 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a nightmare of an idea.: You should be ashamed of yourselves.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:12:49 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
valerie Lasciak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to SB3240 ! I believe we shouldn't teach children about war but encourage the learning about peace and the wonderful things we can do to make the world a better place!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:15:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David ashe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is David Ashe, I am a Hawai'i resident and veteran and I OPPOSE SB 3240. I joined the military because of a lack of options and the need for health insurance and income. I was sold a life that promised me many unrealistic and false benefits by military recruiters. I was even used to recruit students from a local high school to join the military after boot camp without my understanding or consent. Propaganda works on those that don't see both sides. It's unfair to coerce young and impressionable people to sacrifice their youth, health and possible life all while using taxpayer money to produce and distribute this propaganda. While serving in the U.S. military, I was exposed to asbestos, I have damaged my joints and I suffer from mental health issues as a result of my service. That money should be used to strengthen communities here in Hawai'i, not to trick students with few options into a major life decision using false promises and deliberate withholding of information to hit a quota of warm bodies that will stand on the front line in defense of a government that sees our children as expendable casualties in its endless wars. The DoD has plenty of money, let them do the dirty work of recruiting. Mahalo for your time.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:24:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB3240.

An honest assessment of military in Hawaii will bring to light key reasons why this is a bad bill; lack of mental health support for veterans, poisoning of our natural resources, and the high rates of domestic violence occurring on the military bases today.

We live in Hawaii, and to consider creating programs to connect our youth and drive them into a system that has destroyed our environment, destroyed families, and does not take care of those who have served their system is preposterous! We do not need, nor do we want, our children finding careers in such a poisonous system. This will lead to more of our children ending up on the streets, doing drugs, with mental health issues, or in prison. This is not the future we want for our children. This is not a workforce development pipeline we want.

We live in Hawaii, where there is year-around warm temperatures, 11 of 12 ecosystems in the world, and one of the greatest indigenous cultures around the world. There is absolutely better paths for workforce development. We should be working to partner with green-technologies, blue-economies, and our film/media sector to preserve our histories and tell our stories.

There is absolutely no reason we should be intentionally trying to direct our children into the military. ABSOLUETLY NONE.

I oppose this bill and hope that you consider a better path for our children and the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:32:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hope you all haven't lost your gd minds up there!

A million three for PR from Hawai`i residents when the military just spent 93 billion dollars on steak, lobster & grand pianos, while our people are living on the sidewalk?!!!

We don't want military manufacturing weapons in the Aloha State! We don't want our grade school kids indoctrinated with BS. We don't want to shell out one more dime while the military wastes a billion a day on killing innocent people while gorging on crab claws!!! wtaf is wrong with legislators who even introduce such ridiculous legislation?!!!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:32:53 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john savino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:09:14 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the last thing we need! Are you kidding me? WTF!

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826
March 11, 2026

Aloha, Della Au Belatti, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety
Vice-Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto,
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1 "Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office." PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL. PLEASE DO NOT PASS IT FORWARD.

Children are not brought into the world – or into these islands – to learn that killing is normal or desirable. They should not grow up to spend their work lives creating armaments for a government that values killing as if it were a way to solve problems. It should be obvious that killing creates problems; it is not a rational or effective approach to problem-solving.

We have seen that children in Iran were recently killed by a bombing of their school by a missile called a Tomahawk. Many children have also been killed in conflicts in other countries.

They are children! They did not cause any of the conflicts that rage between adults. They should not be trapped into learning to assist killing.

Instead, the following should be the **schools' curriculum**: We want our children and youth to **learn and internalize the skills of nonviolent resolution of disputes, how to de-escalate conflicts, how to spread the aloha spirit that is native to this 'āina**. These nonviolent methods are **powerful** ways to resolve conflicts. We want them to learn critical thinking and how to make their own choices.

I am **grateful** that I did not grow up being taught to develop tolerance for a war-like mindset. We were taught the peace of the Beatitudes.

Think about it: Would you have wanted to grow up being indoctrinated into the values of fighting and killing? Would you want your children and/or grandchildren to grow up to think that killing is normal or desirable? That war is normal? That they should be involved in manufacturing bombs and guns?

We must all **protect the keiki from the horrible plan in SB3240 SD1** to brainwash our people from a young age into thinking that making armaments and fighting in wars is how they should live and work.

Our children should not grow up to have blood on their hands, including the blood of other children.

Please oppose SB3240 SD1. Save the children of our land and the children of other lands.

Eileen Cain
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:31:20 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear God! Is this in the Nazi Germany play book??? This is getting insane. Who came up with this one - Stephen Miller??? Heaven help us.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:02:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mai Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. As a Native Hawaiian spouse of an active duty service member who understands the meaning of readiness, I do not appreciate this bill. We know the military doesn't listen to the community. We have seen that with Red Hill. We are currently seeing the military's attitude of entitlement with Haleakala. The military is incapable of listening to residents. This is a waste of money, my hard earned tax payor money will not be spent on furthering the military agenda of destruction of our 'Aina. The military has enough money to cover its own initiatives. This is waste. Hewa.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:16:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee members,

I write in strong opposition to SB 3240, asking that you defer this measure. Frankly I'm aghast that our military who, under Hegseth, are burning through BILLIONS of our tax dollars illegally inciting wars across the globe, now want US to foot the bill for their PR contract in Hawaii, and fund their propaganda in our schools??!

What- did they run out of money trying to cover up their MAJOR blunder at Red Hill? Hell no we aren't paying for that shit. If they can afford lobster dinners every night they can pay for their own PR. Try accountability. Then they wouldn't have to pay for all the public relations smoke and mirrors.

Kill this bill. Now.

Thank you,

Beth McDermott

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:25:19 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill directs our state tax dollars to the military where there are better uses locally.

It also makes Hawaii economically dependant through the 2029 military lease deadline which is our chance to reclaim land taken during the illegal Hawaiian overthrow.

To route our children, kindergarten through twelfth grade,for defense career pathways is digusting and reprehensible.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:31:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clinton Brewer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not allow this. I oppose . Thank you

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:36:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Kamehanaokala Mattos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

my name is Lahela Mattos and I'm writing to express my deep opposition to SB3240. This bill only further contributes to the current issues that our people face, appropriating funding for sectors that already utilize a large amount of taxpayer monies. This bill has no clear benefit to the taxpayers and residents of Hawai'i, but instead creates the conditions to benefit and make wealthy, the stakeholders that do not reside here, and who do not face the consequences of overtourism, militarism, and the increasing affordability crisis. The people of Hawai'i have been clear about their stance on militarism in Hawai'i since before the illegal overthrow of the kingdom; and that stance is 'A'OLE MA'ANE'I, NOT HERE. This bill proposes further appropriations for a military that already has a multi-billion dollar budget, yet shows no benefit to the community of Hawai'i. With the current spending on defense and tourism, Native Hawaiians and Local families already experience high levels of displacement, job insecurity, housing shortages, and overcrowding of our public infrastructure. For these reasons, along with many others, I OPPOSE SB3240.

aloha,

Lahela Mattos

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:50:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Military out of Hawai'i. This bill is horrific and the last thing this state needs. Enough is enough. Demilitarize Hawai'i.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:54:26 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition to this measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:04:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The people of Hawaii don't need this expenditure. The money could do more for us at this time when it is military ventures that are making things so very financially difficult for individuals and families, driving up prices on essential goods. Let's not buy a dress for a pig!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:21:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please OPPOSE this bill. Hawai'i cannot continue to indoctrinate its children and bind its society to the US military-industrial complex. Current events in West Asia should remind us of the cost of war. So many social services could be provided for the cost of even just one day of war. So many innocent lives have already been lost or doomed by the destruction. So many lands have been poisoned. So many cultural and historical sites have been damaged. So many military and defense production sites have been targeted. Does 1941 ring any bells? Stop this nonsense.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:26:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and urge you to defer this measure which seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

As a mother concerned about the health and welfare of my keiki, and future generations, I implore you not to appropriate the original request of \$1.3 million, nor another cent to fund a public relations campaign to expand the so-called defense industries in Hawai'i.

Simply put, this bill would allow increased access to our precious keiki in public schools under the guise of "workforce development with evolving industrial and defense related needs."

In other words, this would expose our students in grades kindergarten through twelve to align with the military industrial complex instead of focusing on peace-making and conflict resolution studies and investments in collective care to meet the needs of our community.

Hawai'i's government has no business in promoting the Department of War's agenda of imperialism and killing fields. Fund the people of Hawai'i's needs, NOT the U.S. war machine!

Please oppose and defer SB3240.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:04:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Allison Shiozaki, and I live on Moku O Keawe. I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3240. I think by now it should be abundantly clear to anyone with a conscious that the US Military has been complicit in genocide and an out and out perpetrator of war crimes now. It is the world's largest consumer of fossil fuels and also the world's largest polluter. It is thus by definition of what stands in between people around world and safety. The idea that this body would vote in favor of indoctrinating our children and perpetuating the US military's further presence, which by it's very nature makes Hawai'i Nei a target, is extremely poor judgment at best. The US military has poisoned the wai, kai, lani and 'āina. 2029 is our off ramp. We need the military OUT, we need them to clean up, and we need to focus on the protecting the future, which hangs precariously in front of not just future generations any more, but all of us.

Me ke aloha,

Allison Shiozaki

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:24:49 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

As a kupuna to eight mo'opuna, ranging in age from 23 to 9 years of age, I am frankly aghast at the concept of establishing a "pipeline" for indoctrinating children and youth into what amounts to a military-industrial complex, including manufacture of arms, based in the Pacific!!

I began reading decades ago about the "School to Prison Pipeline" in publications of organizations committed to breaking down the institutionalized racism commonly embedded in law enforcement in Black, Latino, and other economically depressed communities on the Continent. It was a revelation to me. Since then, I think many of us have become aware that Hawai'i's law enforcement and juvenile justice systems have operated on similar prejudices against Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

If I understand SB3240 correctly, this bill seeks to appropriate funds to DBED and Tourism to "strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities".

To think that Hawai'i's legislators would devise a system for inculcating values of militarism and war in our youth is abhorrent to me. The popular media glorifies enough of such activity!

Rather, we need to appropriate funds for programs that develop cultural pride; and communication and vocational skills in our children and youth. We need to affirm and help them pursue the values and tools of collaboration and peacemaking.

I urge you to vote against SB3240 SD1!

Mahalo nui loa,

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uaniu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:33:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure, which seeks to make Hawaii a Pacific arms hub by creating a student-to-military pipeline beginning in kindergarten. Military indoctrination has no place in our schools at all, and is especially dangerous when children face this kind of coercion at such a young and impressionable age.

I urge you to please HOLD SB3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:36:03 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Juett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:44:00 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators

Do not support this bill.

There is nothing good about it.

The state of Hawaii does not need to cede more land and more local people to the military complex.

Enough already.

They are taking away the soul of Hawaii.

please oppose this bill. it is a very bad idea.

Mahalo for doing the right thing for our Ohana here not the folks over there.

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:45:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Mary True from Pepe`ekeo, 96783, strongly oppose this bill. It looks like indoctrination to me and will siphon off money desperately needed for more priority projects such as feeding our keiki lunch and keeping roofs over our kapuna's heads. Repairing infrastructure, etc.

Aloha and mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 11:54:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,
Please vote down SB3240.

Why put State money into indoctrinating children and doing PR for the military, when the military has billions of dollars it could use for this?

mahalo,
Cory Harden

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:58:32 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members -

I am writing in **STRONG** opposition to SB3240. This bill amounts to a theft of our tax dollars for a federal department that has a budget that is out of this world.

Our tax dollars should not go to fund propaganda and military education in schools.

Please vote no on this bill - it's bad for Hawaii, both the land and humans.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:54:58 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noriko donna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Noriko Morisaki /donna, and I am a resident of Hawai‘i Island in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment concerning the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination; it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993

Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai'i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O'ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification; it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.
Please do the right thing and kill this bill.

Noriko Morisaki Donna
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:37:52 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Schweitzer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240.

Is the continuing damaging presence of this morally bereft military what we want for Hawaii? There are many good reasons to greatly reduce the military presence in Hawaii, and NO good reasons to keep it. I have heard claims that without the military, Hawaii's economy would suffer. Remember that Hawaii has almost no economy of its own; both the military and tourism support economies outside Hawaii. The economic issue is a red herring. Look at the big picture. The only healthy image of the future is one without the military in it.

Why are we trying to build friendly relations with the military? The state government should be doing the opposite, as the Hawaii County Council has, passing resolutions to limit and reduce military operations, and using taxpayer funds to educate the population concerning the deleterious effects of the military presence in Hawaii, not recruit kindergarteners into military service.

The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts; they don't need money from the Hawaii State Legislature.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:02:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Ellison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is Mina Ellison and I am a resident of Hawai‘i Island in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993

Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai'i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O'ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.
Please do the right thing and stop this bill from moving forward.

Mina Elison
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:04:01 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Jewell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident I oppose bill SB3240 SD1. I do not feel Hawaii should take funds away from all the needs of our community to support the military.

Jean Jewell

96725

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:05:20 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Hauserman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Moku o Keawe. I am testifying against this bill. I do not support my tax dollars being funneled toward defense career pipelines or further militarization of Hawai'i. This bill is HEWA.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:07:01 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:02:16 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition of SB3240 as an individual.

We already pay a significant amount of our federal tax dollars to fund the military, which this year has \$1.42 Trillion in resources. At the same time, the state is facing a budget crisis due in large part to cuts in federal funding under this administration. There is absolutely no need for the state to subsidize this behemoth federal entity with local tax dollars.

Our limited state funds should be allocated to build and bolster our local economy and social infrastructure that benefits OUR residents and communities.

I strongly oppose this measure that would lead to further militarization of Hawaii and our keiki.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee oppose SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Joie Yonamine

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:02:31 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

PLEASE OPPOSE BILL SB3240 SD!!!

As a concerned resident of Hawai‘i Island, I am in strong opposition to this bill SB3240 SD1 and if you really care about this aina and her people so will you!

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

We don't need a deepening of Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Where is the transparency and what is the intent of this legislation based on its timing? If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993 Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai‘i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O‘ahu residents.

Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future for which our community has asked.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
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This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts! Please do the right thing and kill this bill.

Thank you for hearing my plea,

Susan Bambara
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:21:17 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Singer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

I’m writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai‘i AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, “Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...” They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for "defense-related needs". If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War's agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely
Steven Singer

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:37:36 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Greenleaf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no. SB3240 SD1 is the wrong message for school kids...aloha is what they need to experience as they grow into healthy citizens, not fear and war.

Mahalo

Bill Greenleaf

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:44:31 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kelia Meneses and I'm writing this statement to show my deep opposition to SB3240. A bill that only further contributes to the current issues that Hawaiians and displaced Kanaka already face, appropriating funding for sectors that already use a large amount of taxpayer monies. SB3240 has no clear benefit to the taxpayers of Hawai'i, but instead creates the conditions to benefit and make wealthy, the stakeholders that do not even reside here and who do not face the consequences of overtourism, militarism, and the increasing affordability crisis. Hawaiians and Kanaka have been very clear about our stance against the Military and Tourism since before our Kingdom was illegally overthrown and our Queen shot in cold blood, and that stance is A'OLE MA'ANE'I, NOT HERE. Keep Hawaiian lands, in Hawaiian hands. SB3240 only proposed further appropriations for a military that already has a multi-million dollar budget, yet the people of Hawai'i and the community get no benefit. With the current spending on defense and tourism, Kanaka and local families already experience high levels of displacement, job insecurity, housing shortages, and overcrowding of our infrastructure. For all of these reasons, I, Kelia Meneses, along with many other, OPPOSE SB3240.

March 12, 2026

Aloha, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

My name is Deborah Ward. I am a farmer on the island of Hawaii, and members of my family have served in the military. My son's life and happiness were forever affected by his injuries while in the military. **I stand in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.**

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

SB3240 proposes “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

I am appalled that the Hawaii legislature would even consider funding a bill that would indoctrinate our kindergartners with military slogans and worse. The U.S. military and the defense industry are funded to the point that they can buy pianos, steaks and lobster with the money allocated by Congress, They can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts!

Gary Hooser has correctly pointed out that “Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military's footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administration's Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.”

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ward

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:48:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Farina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please- before 9am today Thursday 03/12 - Urgent – SB3240 Please Please Please – Join me TODAY in offering testimony in opposition!

SB3240 is scheduled to be heard by PBS on Friday, 03-13-26 9:00AM in House conference room 411 – so testimony must be submitted NOW and before 9am in order to be “on time”. SHORT testimony is ok!

Here is what I sent in – Please put something into your own words (or borrow some of mine) and keeping it short and to the point is fine.

Please also share with your friends and networks, and go here to submit testimony and read the bill

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=3240&year=2026

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

I’m writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military footprint in Hawai‘i AND given the reality of the current federal administration Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. military history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at

best...for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

SB3240 proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, “Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...” They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for “defense-related needs”. If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War’s agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
Christine Farina

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:49:48 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Stillwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strong oppose SB 3240. As a community member in Hawai'i and mother of a young child, it is disturbing to consider the impact of this bill on the islands, the 'āina, future generations and our global family.

I urge members to oppose this bill and prevent it from being enacted.

I cannot communicate strongly enough about how much damage this bill could do to the welfare of our ecosystems - biological, educational, environmental and historical. It would be a detriment to all of this bill succeeds.

I urge you to protect the 'āina, the keiki, and stop this bill from moving forward.

Mahalo nui,

Lindsey

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:56:30 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing today in to encourage all in this committee to defer SB3240. I am strongly in opposition to SB3240 as the implication of this bill hurts and belittles our community.

SB3240 requested the appropriate funds in the amount of \$1.3 million to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In this turmoil time in war this funding is needed to support our local community with homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry should not seek monitory funds from the state as they are appropriate by congress to pay for their own public relations efforts.

The importance of MACRO, is an agency of the State of Hawaii that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

The community concerns and opposition to further expand the U.S. militaries holdings in Hawai'i AND given the current state of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" AND given the destruction and devastation now over 10 days in the MidEast – not to mention the U.S. militaries track records of the horrible damage conducted at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa are just a few to name– I strongly fine that it is inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not allow and certainly not fund any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students. What we should be teaching diplomacy, ethics, and democracy skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War’s agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Gloria Garcia

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:56:55 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
H. Doug Matsuoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In light of current military funding and spending, and cuts to safety net programs, please, NO on this bill.

Mahalo

H. Doug Matsuoka

Alewa

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:58:25 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Weingarten	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erin Weingarten, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB3240. This bill serves to increase Hawai'i's economic and social dependence on the US military and defense industry. The people of Hawai'i are calling for increased self-determination, environmental restoration, and accountability for the harms caused by militarization. This bill moves us in the opposite direction. Hawai'i residents already contribute to the U.S. military through federal taxes that fund one of the largest military budgets in the world. Our state should not also be using local taxpayer dollars to further subsidize that system. SB3240 would direct state resources toward strengthening defense-sector pipelines and partnerships. The people of Hawai'i are desperate for more resources towards housing, food security, healthcare, and local business development. Hawai'i already has one of the highest costs of living and military driven economies inflate housing and land prices. Equally concerning is the proposal to expand defense-oriented career pathways for students starting in K-12 education. Schools should be places where young people are supported in developing critical thinking, creativity, and diverse career possibilities. Schools should not be extensions of military workforce programs. Hawai'i's keiki deserve opportunities that nurture community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, cultural knowledge, and sustainable local economies. Hawai'i has already borne significant costs from the military presence in our islands—environmental contamination, land dispossession, and ongoing risks to public health and ecosystems. Incidents such as the fuel contamination crisis at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility illustrate the profound consequences of military infrastructure on our communities and resources. Rather than expanding financial and institutional ties to the defense industry, the State of Hawai'i should be investing in sectors that directly support the wellbeing and resilience of our communities. These include local agriculture, renewable energy, education, healthcare, cultural revitalization, and ecological restoration. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote "NO" on SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Erin

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:58:55 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Lukasinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our defense budget is already extraordinarily high while our basic and communal infrastructure needs are being neglected. Please don't funnel more funds to the military, especially when the pentagon has failed audits for many years and we have hungry children in our communities.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:01:44 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 10:04 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

The military presence in Hawai‘i has consistently demonstrated to the community that their primary objective is not to safeguard the local population or preserve the islands. Instead, they prioritize protecting the interests of the government they represent. It's imperative that measures are taken to prevent further exploitation of these valuable islands and their limited resources, which are being harmed and contaminated. I strongly oppose SB3240 and you should too! Enough is enough! Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Keke M.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:15:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

**RECEIVED
Date & Time**

Mar 12, 2026, 10:04 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Kubat	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US armed forces are notorious for preying on disadvantaged people who have few-to-no options when it comes to building a career. Their recruitment strategies are designed by corrupt social scientists to lure impoverished individuals into commitments that endanger their lives and kill their souls. These strategies play on the fantasies of young men and women, leading them to believe they will become heroes, that they will be part of a force for good in the world, that signing up for military service will lead them to success and good fortune, when in fact the vast majority will end up damaged and broken in service to the most corrupt forces on the planet.

Bad enough that this happens to vulnerable teenagers but the idea of starting this process in elementary schools is utterly disgusting.

Militarization is destroying humanity. Access to the internet allows us all to witness the evil perpetrated not only by those firing the missiles but also by those who build the missiles and design the systems that launch them.

This bill is an utter disgrace to the Aloha Spirit. It should never have even gotten this far in the process.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:40:23 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 10:05 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Committee Members,

I stand in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:15:54 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:06 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana-Honua Manuel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Nana-Honua Manuel and I live in Volcano on Moku o Keawe. I have 4 grown children & 7 mo'opuna. I strongly oppose this terrible bill. Hawaii has been occupied by the American Military for 133 years. I challenge anybody to attempt to put a "dollar" value on how that continuing occupation has benefitted America and it's military industrial complex. Enough is enough. No new leases, no new entities to extend those stolen benefits to the occupier, no more indoctrination of the next generation. Just last week a trillion dollars worth of armaments were discharged in the Middle East in what may just be the begining of World War III. What are you legislators thinking? I would remind each of you that the State of Hawaii is a keiki (see Blacks Law definition-direct lineal descendant) of the insurgent Committee of Safety. Someday, soon I hope, there will be a reckoning & I hope each of your legacies will be something to be proud of and that each of you go down in history as having protected and served the people of Hawaii. HRS still contains the underlying laws of the nuetral Hawaiian Kingdom and tthose underlying principles are why the militaries FEIS's for all it's expiring leases were rejected by the BLNR/DLNR. Please do not enable the further prostitution of occupied Hawaii to the American Military.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:17:51 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:11 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve LaFleur	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop the war in Iran!!! No more funds for war!!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:18:46 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:12 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Gaylord	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha?

As kānaka i do NOT support strengthening Hawai'i's relationship with the military. The military have brought little good and significant harm to locals and kānaka! Our tax dollars should be spent on housing, food, education and medicine for our people NOT funneled through the military forcing keiki to sacrifice their lives to get a bit of department of war socialism. Military propoganda and pipelines for our kids directly into the military industrial complex is hewa. This feeds a vicious cycle of keeping locals poor with the promise of affordability and education if they just sign up for a lifetime of trauma and maybe death. Do not use our money to groom kids from a young age for this purpose! Vote against this legislation.

Mahalo,

Carol Gaylord

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:44:59 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:13 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240
Tina Marie Even

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:57:44 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:14 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Kohn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not take away this funding

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 11:26:59 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 12, 2026, 11:28 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's inconceivable - especially at a time the US has demonstrated YET AGAIN that war and profits are its only goal - you would put forth this bill. The US is spending a BILLION dollars a day on an illegal and terroristic war on top of an obscenely huge military budget, all the while cutting benefits and services to ordinary Americans. And as hunger and homelessness spread all over the islands you want to offer them our tax dollars to recruit and propogandise our children into their endless wars?

SHAME - KILL THIS BILL!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:04:12 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derrick Silva	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Stop illegally occupying the neutral nation of Hawai'i & illegally leasing it's land for US military barbarism. People of Hawai'i are at high risk of attack because of the illegal occupation & it's fake 50th state apparatus's white supremacist genocidal pedopheliac attempt at people governance.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:42:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong opposition of SB3240 SD1**, which seeks to strengthen our dependence on the military.

If we are providing funds to DBEDT for collaboration with educational institutions, those funds should be used to *diversify* our economy, rather than doubling down on an industry that actively harms our people and our 'āina.

This bill funnels our tax dollars into the US war machine to increase our dependence on an industry that *does not benefit our people* just before the military leases are up in 2029 and we finally have a chance to get our lands back. Do not cooperate with this attempt to use our tax dollars as a slush fund for the war machine. The perpetuation of these policies makes us a growing target at a time when the US has just started a new war in Iran!

A'ole! Please do what is pono and **oppose SB3240**.

This bill must be killed so that of our keiki and our 'āina are not.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I

Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 3240

Committee on Public Safety

March 16, 2026

LATE

**RECEIVED
Date & Time**

Mar 16, 2026, 6:48 am

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Healani Sonoda-Pale, and I submit this testimony on behalf of Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i in opposition to S.B. 3240.

- Priority of Coordination – If intergovernmental coordination with the military is a goal, a primary focus should be the cleanup of Red Hill and protection of O‘ahu’s drinking water.
- Use of Public Funds – The U.S. military already has the largest federal budget. It is unclear why state funds would be used to support communications or activities related to the defense industry or how this bill would support the “private sector.”
- Recruitment in Schools – Military pathways already exist through ROTC programs and the University of Hawai‘i’s UARC designation. Expanding exposure beginning in kindergarten is alarming.

This bill appears unnecessary, alarming, and it is unclear how it will meaningfully support the “private sector.”

Sincerely,

Healani Sonoda-Pale

On behalf of Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:25:33 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice K T Shiira	Shimanchu Mamuyaa	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:38:42 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana Jones	Decendant of the Citizens of the Lawful Nation of Hawaii. and the future Generations not born yet!	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Strong Opposition to any Military & Geothermal Expansion!

Until Justice is served, we hold and claim Inalienable Rights amd precident over UNLAWFUL Occupiers,

Aloha ‘Āina ~ Kū Kia‘i Hawai‘i!

We appeal to the Kanawai Akua    

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:00:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ellen sofio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 12, 2026

From: Ellen Sofio M.D

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety and the Military

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety,

I write in strong opposition to SB3240SD1 which I only learned of late yesterday. Please vote against and derail this dangerous bill.

As a physician, a pacifist and an environmentalist, I have been deeply traumatized over the past few years by witnessing the U.S. funded genocide in Gaza during which planes and thousand pound bombs funded with U.S. tax dollars shredded, pummeled, violently mutilated and slaughtered tens of thousands of innocent women, babies and children, and the fathers and brothers struggling to protect them, leaving them horrifically maimed, draped, crushed and mangled amidst the massive rubble. Because of our corporate owned censored mainstream media, most Americans did not see these horrific images. College students who did see these images and exercised their first amendment rights to protest were attacked and villanized in the first iteration of the violence and constitutional assaults currently being perpetrated by ICE.

Now we are witnessing yet another U.S lead unprovoked assault on Iran, the morally outrageous extrajudicial and illegal killing of its 84 year old religious leader, his daughter and his 14 month old granddaughter, followed closely by the bombing of an elementary school in a small Iranian

town, which slaughtered 175 innocent little school girls. Who knows how many more innocent civilian lives have been violently snuffed out since then.

Imperialistic violent aggression by the U.S. has been going on for well over 2 centuries beginning with the genocide of the native Americans and closely followed by cultural genocide against the Hawaiian people and the violent dispossession of kanaka o'iwī from their lands.

Against this historical backdrop and in the context of recent vicarious trauma, I was appalled to learn that my own Senator without noticing or soliciting the opinion of her largely civilian constituents, had introduced this reckless and dangerous bill on behalf of the DOD and its recently created local advocacy arm, "MACRO" or military and community relations office.

SB 3240SD1 has terrifying language which other testimony has explicitly referenced (p. 3 starting line 4) This language targets local public school children, starting at the tender age of 5, for psychological grooming, indoctrination, and ultimately for direct military recruitment, supporting influence from the earliest ages to become worker bees to for arms manufacturers.

People pay for public education with their tax dollars. Publicly funded education should not be used as a tool for military recruitment or to guide the career choices of captive minors towards supporting violence and militarism. Religion in the schools is proscribed. Military and military industrial complex recruitment and brainwashing, which is what this bill is really about, should be similarly outlawed. This bill puts a target on the backs of our youngest and most vulnerable in a setting where they are a captive audience. It is reckless and unethical. I would go so far as to say that SB3240SD1 is antithetical to a free and democratic society.

If the governor and the legislature are concerned about affordable housing and about protecting our drinking water supply which has already been toxified with impunity by the DOD and the agricultural chemical and oil industries for many decades with Red Hill only the tip of a larger iceberg, they should be working to reduce rather than increase the oversized footprint of the military here, not working to increase it.

The obscenely high Basic Allowance for Housing allocated from our federal tax dollars on a graduated scale depending on rank allows members of the military to easily outcompete local families for scarce rentals as well as for the few more affordable housing options on in the inflated local fee simple market. In the context of massive inflation driven by ever increasing U.S. military spending, the BAH contributes significantly to the scarcity of available housing for local people and to the tragic fact that over 50% of our kanaka o'iwī have now been compelled to move away from their illegally occupied homeland. The solution is not to recruit more

vulnerable local children to die in combat or to have an even bigger target on their backs by prostituting them to a recklessly fantasized future local arms manufacturing industry.

Further context this dangerous bill is provided by recalling that in 2023 HB 262 was quietly introduced by a startling 26 members of the state House. This bill originated at about the same time so-called “MACRO” was being created and funded in 2024 in order to enhance military surveillance and political influence, creating a mechanism for local democratic institutions to be even further eroded towards fascistic ends. It was cosponsored by many members of the Hawai‘i state House.

. If it had passed, HB 262 would have allowed the children of military families still living on the mainland to essentially cut in line in front of local children to receive a geographic exception to the local school of their choice, when they were still living on the mainland. Fortunately, this bill was not passed, but the fact that it was compliantly co-introduced by 26 members of the house is an indication of how many of our legislators willingly collude with the DOD to the detriment of their own constituents.

This must stop!

Please protect Hawai‘i and its most vulnerable children and families from DOD exploitation and all of us from having an even bigger target put on their backs by making Hawai‘i into an arms manufacturing center. We need to prioritize clean drinking water, local sustainable agriculture, health care, public health, environmental remediation and prioritizing housing for local people not for short term renters, investors and military.

Please instead work to promote peace and our host culture’s values of aloha and reverence for nature. Instead of teaching them how to kill, put more dollars into teaching all of our children about Hawaiian history, and introduce them all to the beautiful Hawaiian language.

We must acknowledge that we live on precious irreplaceable islands with finite land, water and resources. It is not in any of our best interests to become even more of a bastion of the same U.S. imperialism, militarism, perpetual aggression and violence which resulted in the illegal overthrow of Queen Liliu‘okalani in 1893 and the dispossession of Hawaiians from their lands for close to a century before that.

Please vote a decisive and emphatic “No” on SB3240SD1,

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Ellen Sofio M.D.

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

Subject: Strong Opposition to SB3240 - Militarizing Hawaii's Economy and Education

I am writing to strongly oppose SB3240, which seeks to use taxpayer funds to further integrate Hawaii's economy and educational systems with military defense contracting.

- **Misplaced Priorities:** Hawaii should diversify its economy, not increase reliance on federal military spending, which brings rising costs and environmental concerns.
- **Militarizing Youth:** This bill seeks to align education pathways with military needs, essentially using state resources to turn schools into recruitment pipelines.
- **Community Harm:** Expanding military industrial capacity in Hawaii disregards the urgent need for a sustainable, sustainable local economy that benefits residents, not just defense contractors.

I urge you to vote **NO** on SB3240 and focus on investments in local businesses, agriculture, and education that strengthen community resilience over military expansion.

Sincerely,

David Emery

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:48:41 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Dacanay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Renee Dacanay, and I am a resident of Hawai‘i. I respectfully submit testimony in strong opposition to SB3248.

Hawai‘i is already one of the most heavily militarized places in the world. Expanding military coordination and influence within our state government further entrenches this dependency and shifts our focus away from the real needs of local communities.

Our islands face urgent challenges including:

Housing affordability

Environmental protection

Clean water and land restoration

Sustainable agriculture and food security

Education and community investment

Rather than deepening ties that prioritize military expansion, the Legislature should focus on policies that support local resilience, environmental protection, and the wellbeing of Hawai‘i residents.

The people of Hawai‘i have already experienced the consequences of military mismanagement, including the Red Hill fuel contamination crisis, which threatened the drinking water of thousands of residents. Expanding military influence without stronger protections for land, water, and community safety raises serious concerns.

Public resources and government coordination should prioritize the needs of the people of Hawai‘i—not increased military presence or influence.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to OPPOSE SB3248.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:19:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Knapp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Our Keiki need access to water, food, and the Arts not to be fed to the United States war machine. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to SB3240

This bill funds propaganda, not services.

MACRO is not a social services agency. It is a public relations operation. One that, by its own documentation, employs automated data scraping tools to monitor and analyze public sentiment toward the military on social media, news sites, and forums. It ghost-writes op-ed columns, drafts talking points, and issues press releases designed to shape public opinion in favor of military operations in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i taxpayers should not be funding surveillance of their own opinions or the manufacturing of consent on behalf of the U.S. military.

Bringing this messaging into our keiki’s classrooms crosses a line.

SB3240 proposes to integrate MACRO’s pro-defense industry messaging into public schools from kindergarten through grade 12 under the guise of “workforce development.” This is not education, it is recruitment and indoctrination, starting with the youngest and most impressionable members of our community.

Our state budget should reflect our community’s needs, not the military’s PR needs.

With the cost of living, housing, and healthcare crises facing Hawai‘i families, there are far more urgent uses for public funds. Appropriating money to polish the military’s image is not among them.

I respectfully urge this committee to oppose SB3240.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Alexander Knapp

Big Island, Distirct 2

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:30:45 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Fitzpatrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

As a forty-seven year resident of Hawaii who worked tirelessly for UH Maui College and raised two teachers, I strongly ask you to please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

With the US House of Representatives and US Senate slashing Education Funding, SNAP and Lunches for Children, the Hawai'i State Government should not fund any military/defense industry access to our public school students in order to plant seeds of support for "defense-related needs" under the guise of "workforce development".

The U.S. military and war industry have a big enough budget to pay for their own public relations efforts.

The Hawai'i State Legislature should instead use that money to hire qualified teachers and feed our hungry children along with teaching aloha, diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War's agenda.

Mahalo for your time

M Jill Fitzpatrick, Makawao, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:35:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Takamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240! We are tired of funding the war machine

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 5:11:24 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David ashe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is David Ashe and I OPPOSE SB 3240. I joined the military because of a lack of options and the need for health insurance and income. I was sold a life that promised me many unrealistic and false benefits by military recruiters.

Propaganda works on those that don't see both sides. It's unfair to coerce young and impressionable people to sacrifice their youth, health and possible life all while using taxpayer money to produce and distribute this propaganda. While serving in the U.S. military, I was exposed to asbestos, I have damaged my joints and I suffer from mental health issues as a result of my service. That money should be used to strengthen communities here in Hawaii, not to trick students with few options into a major life decision using false promises and deliberate withholding of information to hit a quota of warm bodies that will stand on the front line in defense of a government that sees our children as expendable casualties in its endless wars. The DoD has plenty of money, let them do the dirty work of recruiting. Mahalo for your time.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826
March 11, 2026

Aloha, Della Au Belatti, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety
Vice-Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto,
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1 "Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office." PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL. PLEASE DO NOT PASS IT FORWARD.

Children are not brought into the world – or into these islands – to learn that killing is normal or desirable. They should not grow up to spend their work lives creating armaments for a government that values killing as if it were a way to solve problems. It should be obvious that killing creates problems; it is not a rational or effective approach to problem-solving.

We have seen that children in Iran were recently killed by a bombing of their school by a missile called a Tomahawk. Many children have also been killed in conflicts in other countries.

They are children! They did not cause any of the conflicts that rage between adults. They should not be trapped into learning to assist killing.

Instead, the following should be the **schools' curriculum**: We want our children and youth to **learn and internalize the skills of nonviolent resolution of disputes, how to de-escalate conflicts, how to spread the aloha spirit that is native to this 'āina**. These nonviolent methods are **powerful** ways to resolve conflicts. We want them to learn critical thinking and how to make their own choices.

I am **grateful** that I did not grow up being taught to develop tolerance for a war-like mindset. We were taught the peace of the Beatitudes.

Think about it: Would you have wanted to grow up being indoctrinated into the values of fighting and killing? Would you want your children and/or grandchildren to grow up to think that killing is normal or desirable? That war is normal? That they should be involved in manufacturing bombs and guns?

We must all **protect the keiki from the horrible plan in SB3240 SD1** to brainwash our people from a young age into thinking that making armaments and fighting in wars is how they should live and work.

Our children should not grow up to have blood on their hands, including the blood of other children.

Please oppose SB3240 SD1. Save the children of our land and the children of other lands.

Eileen Cain
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 5:27:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Mark J.
Hashem

Rep. Justin H.
Woodson

Rep. Linda
Ichiyama

Rep. Garner M.
Shimizu

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Kanani Souza

Rep. Mahina
Poepoe

I am testifying today not just as a resident of Hawai‘i, but as a mother.

When I send my children to school each morning, I trust that our public schools will nurture their minds, their creativity, their sense of community, and their character. I trust that the values they are taught will reflect the best of who we are as a people — rooted in aloha, in compassion, in respect for one another and for this ‘āina we are so fortunate to call home.

SB3240 asks the State to fund an office to bring defense-industry messaging into our classrooms — from kindergarten through twelfth grade. I want to be very clear about how that makes me feel as a mother: it worries me deeply.

Our children are not a recruitment pipeline. They are not a workforce to be shaped by the priorities of any industry, least of all one built around conflict and war. They are keiki — children — and they deserve a childhood and an education centered on peace, on curiosity, on the values that make Hawai‘i unique in this world.

The spirit of aloha is not just a greeting. It is a way of living — a commitment to kindness, unity, and care for others. I want my children to grow up making decisions guided by that spirit. I want them to ask, before any action: does this bring people together or push them apart? Does this protect life or put it at risk? Does this honor this land and the people who have cared for it for generations?

Those are the questions I want our schools to be teaching. Not how to align their futures with the needs of the defense industry.

I understand that Hawai'i has a long and complex relationship with the U.S. military. I am not asking this Committee to ignore that reality. But I am asking you — as parents, as leaders, as people who also love these islands — to think carefully about what we are planting in the minds of our youngest and most impressionable children when we allow state-funded industry messaging into their classrooms.

Our keiki deserve better. They deserve schools that teach them to be peacemakers, problem-solvers, and stewards of this beautiful place. They deserve to grow up believing that aloha — not force, not industry, not the interests of any outside institution — is at the center of how we build our future together.

Please oppose SB3240. Do it for our children. Do it for Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa.

Respectfully submitted,

Ezgi Green,

Waialua, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:05:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anniken Rose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Representatives of the Hawai'i Legislature,

Attention and presence is our most valuable power as humans to create. We must no longer focus on war in any facet via education, technology, or business. This is not what I want for Hawaii and does not represent the values of the Hawaiian culture as I have known it these 20 years of saturated residency.

Thank you,

Anniken Rose

Mother. Educator. Resident.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:14:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please OPPOSE this bill. Hawai'i cannot continue to indoctrinate its children and bind its society to the US military-industrial complex. Current events in West Asia should remind us of the cost of war. So many social services could be provided for the cost of even just one day of war. So many innocent lives have already been lost or doomed by the destruction. So many lands have been poisoned. So many cultural and historical sites have been damaged. So many military and defense production sites have been targeted. Does 1941 ring any bells? Stop this nonsense.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:27:43 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is bad to the bone. Oppose!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:29:20 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit testimony in **strong opposition** to SB3240 SD1.

My concerns with this measure include:

- Expands the role of the state in facilitating military growth and federal defense investment in Hawai‘i.
- Further entrenches Hawai‘i’s economic dependence on military spending instead of promoting economic diversification.
- Uses state taxpayer funds to support federal defense objectives and military contracting.
- Aligns workforce and education pathways with defense industry demand, including early exposure within the K–12 system.
- Encourages expansion of defense-related manufacturing and sustainment infrastructure in the state.
- Lacks protections addressing environmental impacts, cultural resources, and community oversight.
- Increases coordination between state agencies, military entities, and defense contractors, potentially prioritizing defense interests over community needs.
- Diverts attention and resources from urgent local priorities such as housing, environmental protection, and economic self-sufficiency.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject SB3240 SD1 and instead support policies that strengthen economic independence, protect community resources, and invest in sustainable local industries.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:39:03 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3240. The U.S. Department of War has \$1.42 trillion allocated in resources, the most well-funded Dept of War in U.S. history. While Hawai'i faces cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, along with historically underfunded public education and DHHL, this bill proposes spending \$1,300,000 in state taxpayer dollars to coordinate with the Department of War. The US says that Hawaii's "strategic location" is "vital" to the US Military. Their decadeslong presence is already prevalent, extractive, and harmful. We should not be paying to court them. We should be doing everything we can to downsize their footprint, remediate the harm, and reduce future damage. The Dept of War sector looks primarily because the State has failed to invest in alternatives. Clean transportation, energy autonomy, food sovereignty, education, climate resilience, and local workforce development. That is where this \$1.3 million belongs. Equally alarming is this bill's facilitation of military outreach into K-12 classrooms. Kindergarteners cannot consent to recruitment. Military service is among the weightiest moral decisions a person will make; it demands a fully informed adult choice, not state-funded conditioning beginning in childhood. If our schools are to teach values, fund partnerships with institutions like the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, not pipelines to the Department of War. It is shameful that SB 3240 receives priority hearing time while HB 2048 (requiring cleanup bonds and legislative approval for military land dispositions), HB 1916 (prohibiting live-fire training on public trust lands), and HB 2527 (repealing special federal condemnation protections) could not get hearings in the same committee. The prioritization of this bill sends a message about whose interests it serves. Please defer SB 3240. Our keiki, our lands, and our tax dollars deserve better.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:40:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyrus G	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is just military propaganda. Stop trying to feed the youth to the war machine. Give back Hawaiian lands.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:47:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Amended 3/16/26 11:20am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nawahine Kahoopii	Nawahine-Kahoopii Ohana	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Hui vehemently oppose this bill. No money for olelo Hawaii in our public school system, which is a legal obligation of the state of Hawaii. Cultural programs are being cut from the curriculum, and yet you have the funds to support a direct pipeline from kindergarten to the death culture of continued militarism of our Islands, and now our children. We don't just say NO, not even HELL NO, we say ██████████ NO!!!!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:46:50 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yukiko Manuel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240 SD1. I do not want my tax money funding military programs or have my keiki to be taught/included in learning about the military. Mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:52:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition to this measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:52:27 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition of SB3240.

We already pay a significant amount of our federal tax dollars to fund the military, which this year has \$1.42 Trillion in federal resources. At the same time, the state is facing a budget crisis due to cuts in federal funding under this administration.

There is absolutely no need for the state to subsidize this behemoth federal entity with local tax dollars - especially when that same federal entity refuses to take financial responsibility for the environmental damage it has done to Hawaii (i.e. Red Hill and Superfund sites in and around military bases).

Our limited state funds should be allocated to our local economy and social infrastructure that benefits OUR residents and communities.

I strongly oppose this measure that would lead to further militarization of Hawai‘i and our keiki.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee oppose SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Joie Yonamine

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:11:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB3240.

An honest assessment of military in Hawai‘i will bring to light key reasons why this is a bad bill; lack of mental health support for veterans, poisoning of our natural resources, and the high rates of domestic violence occurring on the military bases today.

We live in Hawai‘i, and to consider creating programs to connect our youth and drive them into a system that has destroyed our environment, destroyed families, and does not take care of those who have served their system is preposterous! We do not need, nor do we want, our children finding careers in such a poisonous system. This will lead to more of our children ending up on the streets, doing drugs, with mental health issues, or in prison. This is not the future we want for our children. This is not a workforce development pipeline we want.

We live in Hawai‘i, where there is year-around warm temperatures, 11 of 12 ecosystems in the world, and one of the greatest indigenous cultures around the world. There is absolutely better paths for workforce development. We should be working to partner with green-technologies, blue-economies, and our film/media sector to preserve our histories and tell our stories.

There is absolutely no reason we should be intentionally trying to direct our children into the military. ABSOLUETLY NONE.

I oppose this bill and hope that you consider a better path for our children and the future of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:16:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against any state tax dollars being spent on military or federal causes and to advertise to our youth using tax payer funds.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:34:06 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Kanahale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

My name is K. Kanahale and I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai'i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai'i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai'i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993 Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai'i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O'ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- **Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world**
- **Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors**
- **Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina**
- **Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment**

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.

Mahalo,

K. Kanahele

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:38:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this on so many levels. I ask you to do the same.

Jim Scancella

Hawi

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:41:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this draconian bill to offer up our 'āina and our keiki as sacrifices to the military industrial complex of the USA.

You guys get your damn nerve for not only trying to appropriate our state tax dollars to benefit a bloody war machine that arguably already has the largest federal budget, but you also want to hijack, maim, and kill our descendants, our collective future. Instead of supporting sectors that give life and wellbeing to our communities, you all want to invest in our own demise? Hewa loa! Look at what's happening in Iran. Look at what's happening in Palestine. Look at what's happening in Sudan. Look at what's happening in Cuba. The death of generations, of nations.

You will not bring that death to our doorstep. You will not recruit our children and our communities to participate in your capitalist death cult. We are the land of aloha, and we will use aloha to hold you accountable. As long as we live and breathe, our love will shield our children and fight for the safety of the children of the world. They are all our children and none of them will ever belong to you. Demilitarize Hawai'i, deoccupy Hawai'i, and bring justice and life back to our shores. Me ke aloha 'āina pau 'ole, Kau'i Young

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:47:37 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This SB3240 is just one more step towards brainwashing. Nazi Germany did the same thing in their hayday. What is this country turning into? A Stephen Miller wet dream. What an embarrassing mess we are in with this administration.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:50:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Jewell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident, I strongly oppose SB3240. It will take money and support badly needed for our community.

Jean Jewell, Holualoa

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:05:53 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Mary True from Pepe`ekeo, 96783, strongly oppose this bill. It looks like indoctrination to me and will siphon off money desperately needed for more priority projects such as feeding our keiki lunch and keeping roofs over our kapuna's heads. Repairing infrastructure, etc.

Aloha and mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:46:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

The FY2026 military budget is already in the hundreds of billions, projected to exceed \$1 trillion, to aid the murder of innocent people.

Use this money for resources that people actually need.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:55:45 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please vote NO on SB 3240.

How dare the military target children as early as kindergarten to steer them into military work?
And charge State taxpayers to do so? We need to be growing food, developing renewable
energy, and protecting our lands and waters, not bombing and poisoning everywhere.

mahalo,
Cory Harden

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:05:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Conner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

Where did you survey community members and determine this was a need? Our state tax dollars should be going towards 'Āina, local food production, water resources, housing, education, sustainability, building up and strengthening communities, and an equitable future for Hawai'i's children. The military is not Hawai'i's future, it is not the solution, and our children are NOT pawns in the USA's corrupt system. I can list a hundred other things that are necessary and needed that outweigh this ridiculous agenda. We have youth sleeping on the streets. Youth overdosing. Youth committing suicide. Youth being assaulted and trafficked. Try protecting them first. Where are those solutions? Where are the funds for emergency youth centers and therapeutic supports? Please prioritize the importance of our youths mental health and overall well-being.

This isn't it.

E Mālama Pono!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:26:49 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony submitted in strong opposition to SB3240. Thank you.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:36:31 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kathy Shimata & I live in Honolulu.

Our Hawaii economy is fragile. We depend on tourism & the military. We can't increase our agriculture fast enough so we import most of our food. However, I strongly oppose the intent of this bill to turn our children into future workers in the defense industry. We are the land of Aloha, not war.

I urge you to oppose SB3240.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 10:26:54 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oh, perfect! Teaching kindergärtners about careers killing people! I could not be more opposed to this insane bill. I hope it costs Fukunaga and Chang their careers.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 11:53:31 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Kamehanaokala Mattos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

my name is Lahela Mattos and I'm writing to express my deep opposition to SB3240. This bill will only further contribute to the current issues that our people face, appropriating funding for sectors that already utilize a large amount of taxpayer monies. This bill has no clear benefit to the taxpayers and residents of Hawai'i, but instead creates the conditions to benefit and make wealthy, the stakeholders that do not reside here, and who do not face the consequences of overtourism, militarism, and the increasing affordability crisis. The people of Hawai'i have been clear about their stance on militarism in Hawai'i since before the illegal overthrow of the kingdom; and that stance is 'A'OLE MA'ANE'I, NOT HERE. This bill proposes further appropriations for a military that already has a multi-billion dollar budget, yet shows no benefit to the community of Hawai'i. With the current spending on defense and tourism, Native Hawaiians and Local families already experience high levels of displacement, job insecurity, housing shortages, and overcrowding of our public infrastructure. Furthermore, it is unethical and hewa loa to use the tax dollars of Hawaii residents to support a military that bombs children abroad, while our own children here in Hawaii suffer from poverty, poor infrastructure, and the impacts of tourism and militarism. For these reasons, along with many others, I OPPOSE SB3240

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:44:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Davidson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240. Using state money to target children from Kindergarten through twelfth grade for military recruitment is unacceptable. This bill normalizes war before children can even read, let alone question it. It says we need to ensure federal investment because of Hawai'i's vast state expenditures related to the military. With Army leases ending by 2029, I think we should be focusing on reclaiming the land that was stolen instead of leaning more into the ravenous war machine. I ask you to vote NO on SB3240. Thank you.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:09:06 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Degaetani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3240. Using state money to target children from kindergarten through 12th grade is completely irresponsible and unacceptable. This bill would normalize war before kids can use critical thinking skills to even question it. As an American citizen, I am demanding that you vote NO on this bill!!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:35:36 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John C Wert III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you table this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO) in the original amount of \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military's footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administration's Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the Middle East AND when taking into further consideration the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill, Pōhakuloa, etc, **I believe strongly that it is inappropriate, at best, for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands, which also seeks access to our public school students.**

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

Increasing the size of the military and defense industry footprint here in Hawai'i only increases our value as a TARGET. For these reasons and many more, please oppose and table SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Prof John C Wert (Ret), Wailuku, also Maj John C Wert USAF (Ret)

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:00:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Wassell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

Sincerely,

JJ Wassell

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:22:06 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HENRIETTA JONES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to voice my opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

Eveyone is tightening their belts, everyday costs has escalated. Certainly this proposed funding can be used elsewhere to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP benefits, and so much more. Surely, the military and the defense industry can afford to pay for their own public relations efforts. Please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Mahalo,

Henrietta Jones

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:42:22 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Galloway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a tax payer and strongly oppose this bill. I agree with everything said in Gary Hooser's statement opposing this. It is not appropriate for Hawaii, or for our students, and we have far better things to spend money on!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:47:12 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Grossmann, PhD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The inherent critical policy decisions should be debated and set by Hawaii's legislative body, not the more narrow positioning for federal funds by a small economic development executive branch agency. Full-stop.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:49:00 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Coppings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

It is inappropriate at best for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here and that seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition. I do not want my tax dollars spent in this way at all.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.” Absolutely not!

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Amber Coppings

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:50:23 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill directs our state tax dollars to the military where there are better uses locally.

It also makes Hawai‘i economically dependant through the 2029 military lease deadline which is our chance to reclaim land taken during the illegal Hawaiian overthrow.

To route our children, kindergarten through twelfth grade,for defense career pathways is digusting and reprehensible.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:12:31 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amos Zollo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

Why would we want to encourage and teach our children how to build weapons that kill? We should be teaching them how to sustain our economy through peaceful means such as, sustainable agriculture, business management, and how to care for and respect each other no matter who we choose to be.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely, Amos Zollo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:13:11 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I remain in very strong opposition to this bill. There is no way Hawaii should be paying to promote the military ever, in any way, and especially not in our schools. It is appalling.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:15:55 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jesa amascul	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jesa Amascul and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB3240. This bill serves to increase Hawai'i's economic and social dependence on the US military and defense industry. The people of Hawai'i are calling for increased self-determination, environmental restoration, and accountability for the harms caused by militarization. This bill moves us in the opposite direction. Hawai'i residents already contribute to the U.S. military through federal taxes that fund one of the largest military budgets in the world. Our state should not also be using local taxpayer dollars to further subsidize that system. SB3240 would direct state resources toward strengthening defense-sector pipelines and partnerships. The people of Hawai'i are desperate for more resources towards housing, food security, healthcare, and local business development. Hawai'i already has one of the highest costs of living and military driven economies inflate housing and land prices. Equally concerning is the proposal to expand defense-oriented career pathways for students starting in K-12 education. Schools should be places where young people are supported in developing critical thinking, creativity, and diverse career possibilities. Schools should not be extensions of military workforce programs. Hawai'i's keiki deserve opportunities that nurture community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, cultural knowledge, and sustainable local economies. Hawai'i already has significant costs from the military presence in our islands including environmental contamination, land dispossession, and ongoing risks to public health and ecosystems. Incidents such as the fuel contamination crisis at Red Hill demonstrate the profound consequences of military infrastructure on our communities and resources. Rather than expanding financial and institutional ties to the defense industry, the State of Hawai'i should be investing in sectors that directly support the wellbeing and resilience of our communities. These include local agriculture, renewable energy, education, healthcare, cultural revitalization, and ecological restoration. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote "NO" on SB3240.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:18:35 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Teach peace not war,

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:29:25 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Newman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

At this point in time the proposed funding would be better used to support the development of affordable housing programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and the other other things that go a long way to make living in Hawaii possible for its citizens. The U.S. military and the defense industry have their own sources of income for their public relations campaigns.

It is important as well that taxpayer funds are not allocated to MACRO for the purpose of bringing their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development.” Hawai‘i State Government should not allow and fund the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students. Many Hawaii citizens are opposed to an increase in military presence on the islands, and their voices would be silenced and negated by passage of this bill.

For these reasons and many more - please oppose SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Mahalo,

Lorraine Newman

Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:30:07 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carie Lunsford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more war!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:33:44 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

Thr US military has a nearly unlimited budget and the are sending people to war to die for defense contractors and other countries. As a teacher and a retired military member, I cannot endorse any more money from this state being spent on supporting this.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:34:19 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Cady	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:40:17 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB2240: Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students. Blatant built-in biased instruction has no place in public school education.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:47:08 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Schweitzer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240.

Is the continuing damaging presence of this morally bereft military what we want for Hawaii? There are many good reasons to greatly reduce the military presence in Hawaii, and NO good reasons to keep it. I have heard claims that without the military, Hawaii's economy would suffer. Remember that Hawaii has almost no economy of its own; both the military and tourism support economies outside Hawaii. The economic issue is a red herring. Look at the big picture. The only healthy image of the future is one without the military in it.

Why are we trying to build friendly relations with the military? The state government should be doing the opposite, as the Hawaii County Council has, passing resolutions to limit and reduce military operations, and using taxpayer funds to educate the population concerning the deleterious effects of the military presence in Hawaii, not recruit kindergarteners into military service.

The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts; they don't need money from the Hawaii State Legislature.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:52:09 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Hecht	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The military is a bad actor in Hawaii, polluting our soils and air at Puhakuloa and water at Red Hill. They need to clean up these areas for future generations. Please do NOT use \$1.3 million of our tax dollars to fund workforce education or indoctrination in our schools so more of our sons and daughters can be killed in service. There are other jobs to educate our kids for- NOT military.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:52:21 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed: The very last thing we need in Hawaii is more military interdependence. And they certainly do not need our tax payers to help them become further entrenched. The money for "workforce development" could be spent on directly teaching skills to students or perhaps on helping them afford their educations. Or perhaps create jobs cleaning up the other messes the military has made. PLEASE prevent this nonsense. The military does not need our help and we have a lot of things we do need to help with that the money could be better spent on. Do we really want more of our citizens encouraged to feel they have no recourse but to serve in a military that is behaving badly on the world stage? Please stop this. thank you. (I am a grandmother)

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:02:25 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacoboy Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to this bill.

This legislation, despite its bureaucratic language about “intergovernmental coordination” and “workforce pathways,” is fundamentally a blank check to deepen Hawaii’s economic dependence on the U.S. military. The appropriation amount is literally left blank. The legislature is being asked to commit general fund dollars to an undefined sum for purposes that are broad enough to mean almost anything. That is not responsible governance — it is a rubber stamp. Hawaii already hosts one of the highest concentrations of military infrastructure of any state in the nation. That presence has come with real and documented costs: contaminated drinking water at Red Hill, the ongoing displacement of Native Hawaiian communities from ancestral lands, the sacrifice of agricultural and conservation lands to military use, and the subordination of local economic priorities to federal defense objectives. This bill asks us to double down on that trajectory without a single mention of those harms.

The framing that increased defense contracting equals economic resilience is false. It is economic fragility. Tying workforce development, manufacturing capacity, and business readiness to federal defense spending makes Hawaii more vulnerable to federal budget shifts, not less. It also crowds out investment in sectors — agriculture, renewable energy, sustainable tourism, education — that could build genuine long-term stability rooted in Hawaii’s land and people rather than in Pentagon appropriations.

I am also troubled by the complete absence of accountability mechanisms. There are no outcome metrics, no independent oversight, no requirements for community input, and no sunset provisions. The military and community relations office would be handed broad discretionary authority with minimal legislative guardrails.

Hawaii’s communities, and especially Native Hawaiians, deserve an economy built around their wellbeing and self-determination — not one optimized to capture a larger share of the U.S. defense budget. I urge the committee to reject this bill.

I respectfully request that this bill be held.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:02:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Klyman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't understand why the US military needs State funds for a public relations campagin that promotes and targets our school students. The military can well afford a few bucks for a PR campagin on their own. I don't see why they need to "beat their drum" touting this is good and patriotic activism at our school children with the cover for more complacency for additional military activity. Hawaii does not need to fund this.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:05:31 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serafina Gajate	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
serafina Gajate

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:05:58 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Fred Hofer, 96720, strongly oppose

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:08:08 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kai Barreto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No military indoctrination in our schools.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:09:34 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana-Honua Manuel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Nana-Honua Manuel and I live in Volcano on Moku o Keawe. I have 4 grown children & 7 mo'opuna. I strongly oppose this terrible bill. Hawai'i has been occupied by the American Military for 133 years. I challenge anybody to attempt to put a "dollar" value on how that continuing occupation has benefitted America and it's military industrial complex. Enough is enough. No new leases, no new entities to extend those stolen benefits to the occupier, no more indoctrination of the next generation. Just last week a trillion dollars worth of armaments were discharged in the Middle East in what may just be the begining of World War III. What are you legislators thinking? I would remind each of you that the State of Hawai'i is a keiki (see Blacks Law definition-direct lineal descendant) of the insurgent Committee of Safety. Someday, soon I hope, there will be a reckoning & I hope each of your legacies will be something to be proud of and that each of you go down in history as having protected and served the people of Hawai'i. HRS still contains the underlying laws of the nuetral Hawaiian Kingdom and tthose underlying principles are why the militaries FEIS's for all it's expiring leases were rejected by the BLNR/DLNR. Please do not enable the further prostitution of occupied Hawai'i to the American Military.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:10:07 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and members,

I strongly urge opposition to this bill, SB 3240. The military does not need, nor does it deserve, ANY extra influence in our State. In particular the citizens of this State should not appropriate money to give the Military any extra influence in our schools. This is basically a chance for propaganda by the military to advocate for an agenda that is not in congruence with the values of Hawaii..

The US military has proved itself, again and again, to be a poor citizen. It should not be given this money.

Please oppose this measure,

Respectfully,

Bruce L Hultgren MD

Kailua

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:10:14 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Koerner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Mahalo,
Diane Koerner

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:11:11 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Nuuhiwa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US military has a long and sordid history in Hawaii and around the world, a reputation for sexual harassment and abuse of women and children, poisoning of air land and water, exploitation of the most vulnerable people in our communities and destruction and desecration of our most sacred landscapes and waterways. There is documented evidence, reseach, public testimony and scientific data. Furthermore, the US military has its own funding. Our state funding should not be used to deepen the military's hold on our people, particularly our vulnerable students. Would you trust an abuser with your children? Oppose SD3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:15:29 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In tight budgetary times, state funding is needed to make Hawai'i more resilient and self-sufficient by prioritizing programs such as healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:21:17 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Lubrano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
Ellen Lubrano

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:21:47 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MChristine Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, and food/SNAP benefits. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

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Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administration's Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries' expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write op-ed columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:24:51 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Belmarez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

Furthermore, if the pentagon is already splurging on expenses such as surf n turf and other extravagances, then they have shown they are abusing the taxpayer funding already in place.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:34:00 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please oppose this bill. The taxpayers of Hawaii have already spent too much money to clean up military messes. NO More public funds to the military for anything. They have a huge budget, again at our expense, they can pay their own way. We have a budget shortfall from federal cuts and we need all our public funds to feed, house, help with medical expenses our own people. Stop the insanity of wasting monies on war instead of care, nurturing of the people.
Mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:41:41 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to focus on Hawai'i, not a renegade federal regime that should only be held in contempt.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:47:42 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jane Arnold and I live in Kaimuki. I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

This funding would be farbetter spent to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

I am particularly concerned abou the portion of this bill that allows the military access to school children to brainwash them. Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:54:17 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Haole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:57:36 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am extremely disturbed by the ramifications of SB3240 and strongly oppose my tax dollars being used to support such endeavors. I stand with many others and STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:00:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Pizzitola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Linda Pizzitola

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:23:21 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and urge you to defer this measure which seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

As a mother concerned about the health and welfare of my keiki, and future generations, I implore you not to appropriate the original request of \$1.3 million, nor another cent to fund a public relations campaign to expand the so-called defense industries in Hawai'i.

Simply put, this bill would allow increased access to our precious keiki in public schools under the guise of "workforce development with evolving industrial and defense related needs."

In other words, this would expose our students in grades kindergarten through twelve to align with the military industrial complex instead of focusing on peace-making and conflict resolution studies and investments in collective care to meet the needs of our community.

Hawai'i's government has no business in promoting the Department of War's agenda of imperialism and killing fields. Fund the people of Hawai'i's needs, NOT the U.S. war machine!

Please oppose and defer SB3240.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:26:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Mobley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.

SB3240 proposes (paraphrase) "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, "Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues..." They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development".

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for "defense-related needs". If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War's agenda.

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward

Sincerely,

Kathryn Mobley, Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:27:23 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

As a resident of North Shore of O‘ahu I write to oppose SB3240 SD1. Our communities already live with the impacts of a very large military presence in Hawai‘i, from environmental damage to strain on land and infrastructure. At a time when many local families are struggling with the high cost of living, housing shortages, and the protection of our natural resources, state funds should be focused on strengthening community well-being rather than expanding programs tied to the defense sector.

People in communities throughout the islands, and particularly here on the North Shore, value mālama ‘āina, sustainable livelihoods, and a future where people, younger and older alike, can remain in Hawai‘i. I urge the Committee to prioritize investments that support local communities, environmental stewardship, and a diversified economy instead of deepening Hawai‘i's dependence on military-related development. For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you defer SB3240 SD1.

Mahalo

Joe Wilson

House District 47 | Senate District 23

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:29:27 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 would appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- 1. In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support the basic needs of our population.**
- 2. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.**
- 3. There are well-founded community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the US military's footprint in Hawaii as well as opposition to the current federal administration's Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things."**
- 4. Lack of support for the destruction and carnage now occurring in the Middle East.**
- 5. The U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa.**
- 6. Hawaii tax revenue should not be expended to support dissemination of administrative propaganda regarding the activities and ethos of the Department of War and the Trump administration, especially to public school students.**
- 7. According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to "Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues..." Hawaii should not support an effort that could potentially be used to spy on its residents. This is dangerous to free speech.**

For these reasons and many more, please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Pam Elders

Laupahoehoe

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:34:24 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Janik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:40:59 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Gerding	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

military budget should certainly be able to cover its own expense in advertising.

fix some roads with that money?

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:41:32 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Enomoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION Senate Bill 3240 – Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office
Position: OPPOSE

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 3240, which would give \$1.3 million in state funds to expand the Military and Community Relations Office. While the bill talks about jobs and opportunities for our kids, most of that language has no teeth — the money really just goes to help the military and defense contractors do more business in Hawaii, with very little accountability.

Before we write this check, we should ask a simple question: has the military earned our trust as a good partner in this community? Based on the track record, the answer is no.

Kaho'olawe The U.S. Navy used the entire island of Kaho'olawe as a bombing range for decades. They promised to clean it up. They spent hundreds of millions of dollars — then stopped in 2004 and walked away, leaving the island still full of unexploded bombs. This sacred island, deeply important to Native Hawaiian culture, remains largely off-limits to this day because the military broke its promise.

Red Hill — Our Drinking Water In 2021, jet fuel from the Navy's Red Hill storage facility leaked into the drinking water for nearly 93,000 people. Families turned on their taps and smelled fuel. Children got sick. The Navy was slow to respond and slow to be honest about what happened. This wasn't a freak accident — there had been repeated smaller leaks for years that the military ignored. It took massive public pressure just to get them to shut it down.

Makua Valley Makua Valley on O'ahu is one of the most ecologically rich places in all of Hawaii, home to many rare and endangered species. The Army has used it as a live-fire training area for decades, causing fires and environmental destruction. Community groups have fought in court for years just to get the military to do basic environmental assessments. The land has suffered while the military treated it as disposable.

Pōhakuloa Training Area — Big Island The military's Pōhakuloa Training Area on Hawai'i Island has been the site of ongoing concerns about depleted uranium contamination, unexploded ordnance, and damage to native ecosystems and cultural sites. Residents and Native Hawaiian groups have repeatedly called for greater transparency and cleanup, and have largely been met with resistance or delay.

The Bottom Line

This bill asks us to give the military more state resources and deeper ties to our government — but the military has shown time and again that it does not prioritize the health of our land, our water, or our people. There are no cleanup commitments attached to this bill. There are no environmental protections. There is no accountability.

If the state wants to invest \$1.3 million in Hawaii's future, that money would be far better spent on clean water infrastructure, Native Hawaiian land restoration, or workforce programs that are actually run by and for our communities — not offices that exist to help the Pentagon do more business here.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to hold this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:56:39 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am Paul Janes-Brown, life long Democrat, active in political campaigns and served on party committees and precinct offices. This bill is a very bad idea. First, there are so many other priorities which are in need of funding. Especially, in view of Federal cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, scientific research and the Arts to name a few priorities. Next, providing funding to reach K-12 public school students to feed them propaganda about defense opportunities is beyond absurd. If it weren't such a disturbing idea, it would be laughable under other circumstances.

There is no way this bill should have even been drafted, but now you need to do the right thing. Put it in the trash, where it belongs. Mahalo nui loa.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:09:34 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Whoever wrote and promoted this has got to be kidding! Why would Hawaii want to take our precious, hard earned money, which could be helping our state in multitudinous positive ways, and throw it away on promoting community relations for the military as they go blasting and killing around the world? Please use our money to focus on ways to help the people of Hawaii!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:10:12 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Paul	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240. While I am not opposed to students entering military and defense careers, this type of information should be integrated into a broad spectrum of career choices,so students see the full array of careers available to them. That is already available in school-to-career programs in schools across the state. We do not need to use scare state funds for this purpose.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:10:33 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Engman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:13:48 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Witeck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240 and urge our legislators to vote it down. We should not allow the US military to have more influence over our schools and students given the illegal military conquest and occupation of our islands and the environmental damage the military has wrought. We should be converting military-held lands to constructive civilian uses,

Mahalo for considering my testimony. Please do not pass SB 3240 and instead please advocate for the demilitarization of Hawaii lands and resources,

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:15:01 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to SB 3240. Frankly, I'm aghast that our military who under Hegseth are burning through BILLIONS of our tax dollars illegally inciting wars across the globe now want us to foot the bill for their PR contract in Hawaii and fund their propaganda in our schools. Try accountability. Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for "defense-related needs". If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools – not promoting the Department of War's agenda. Kill this bill. Now.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:34:32 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donelle Sawyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members:

I write today to strongly oppose SB3240, and am asking that you defer this measure. The bill will appropriate approximately \$1.3 million in state taxpayer funding to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). With so much limited budgeting during these difficult times, this funding should, instead, support programs of much more needed urgency for constituents, such as health care, SNAP, food poverty, homelessness, etc., not on a military PR campaign. The defense industry is well-funded for their own purposes. Do not allow them to allocate money away from constituents needs during these hard times. Who's suffering? Certainly not the military.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
Donelle Sawyer

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:56:38 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Star Carlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3240

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members,

I am writing today to voice strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

We have many urgent problems that require funding. The military never lacks for funds while social services never receive adequate funds.

As a lifelong elementary educator I find this proposal to be highly inappropriate and offensive. Using public funds in a propaganda campaign to build support for increasing the military footprint in Hawaii suggests the behavior of an authoritarian regime. Involving children in the process will anger parents, students and teachers. This is not the Hawaii that any of us want to live in.

Remember what the military footprint did to the groundwater at Red Hill. This proposal is not in the best interest of the people or the aina of our beloved Hawaii.

Our children are looking to us to correct wrongs rather than perpetuate them.

Respectfully,

Star Carlin

Mountain View

Hawaii

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:57:14 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong opposition** to SB3240, a bill that would appropriate state taxpayer funds—possibly as much as \$1.3 million—to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO) for the purpose of public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment regarding U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. This bill is an inappropriate use of public funds, a betrayal of public trust, and an affront to the communities who have suffered from the military's decades of irresponsible conduct.

In These Tight Budget Times, Our Priorities Are Clear

The Legislature is currently grappling with severe budget shortfalls. We are being asked to make painful choices about funding for homeless programs, healthcare, food assistance through SNAP, and countless other essential services that our most vulnerable residents depend upon. In this context, the idea of spending \$1.3 million on a public relations campaign for the U.S. military is obscene.

The U.S. military and the defense industry are among the best-funded entities on the planet. They do not need—and should not receive—a dime of Hawai‘i taxpayer money to polish their image or manage community sentiment. If the military wants to improve its reputation, it can start by cleaning up its messes, compensating the communities it has harmed, and ceasing its relentless expansion into our limited land and waters—using its own considerable resources.

MACRO's True Function: Managing Sentiment, Not Serving Communities

MACRO is not an agency that serves the public interest. Its focus, as evidenced by its own activities, is public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. According to publicly available information, MACRO has already hired a public relations agency to, among other things:

- "Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues."

In other words, they are surveilling public discourse—tracking what residents say about the military online. They also draft press releases, ghost-write op-ed columns, prepare testimony, and issue talking points. This is not government serving the people. This is government serving as a public relations arm of the defense industry.

The Military's Record Speaks for Itself

The U.S. military's history in Hawai'i is not one that warrants a taxpayer-funded PR campaign. Consider:

- **Red Hill:** The Navy poisoned O'ahu's sole-source aquifer, sickened thousands of residents, and then engaged in years of evasion, half-truths, and outright obstruction. Families lost trust in their tap water. Children and kūpuna suffered health effects. The military's response was not accountability—it was a public relations strategy.
- **Pōhakuloa:** The Army's training facility on Hawai'i Island has a long and ongoing history of damaging cultural sites, disrupting native ecosystems, and expanding its footprint despite community opposition.
- **Stryker Brigade:** The permanent stationing of the Stryker Brigade on Hawai'i Island was imposed over the unanimous opposition of the Hawai'i County Council and thousands of residents who testified against it. The military's response to community concerns? Expansion anyway.
- **Nationwide Context:** This comes at a moment when the current federal administration's Department of War has articulated a position of "no rules of engagement" and described the military's purpose as to "kill people and break things." We are witnessing, in real time, the destruction and carnage unfolding in the Middle East. The same military machine that operates in our islands is engaged in operations that have killed tens of thousands of civilians overseas. And now we are asked to fund a campaign to make Hawai'i's children feel good about that?

Now They Want Access to Our Keiki

Perhaps most infuriating is the bill's provision to bring defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development." The bill proposes "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

Kindergarten. The bill explicitly seeks to integrate the exposure of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to defense industry messaging. This is not workforce development. This is indoctrination. This is seeding support and normalizing the military-industrial complex in the minds of our keiki before they are old enough to question it.

Our public schools should be places of learning, critical thinking, and exploration—not recruitment centers for the defense industry. If the military wants to recruit young people, it can do so through its own channels, on its own dime, without using the State of Hawai'i as a marketing intermediary. Our children are not tools for the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

A Fundamental Inappropriateness

It is, at best, fundamentally inappropriate for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion in our islands—and to grant that industry access to our public school students. At worst, it is a betrayal of the public trust and a profound disrespect to every community that has been harmed by military misconduct.

We should be funding homeless programs, not military PR. We should be funding healthcare and food assistance, not data scraping of community sentiment. We should be protecting our keiki from corporate and military propaganda, not delivering them to the defense industry as a captive audience.

SB3240 is a misuse of public funds, a violation of the public trust, and an affront to every resident who has suffered from the military's misconduct. It should be defeated decisively.

I urge this committee to **oppose and defer SB3240** and send a clear message: Hawai‘i's taxpayer dollars will not be used to polish the image of an institution that has poisoned our water, destroyed our cultural sites, and ignored our communities—and we will not surrender our keiki to the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:01:28 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240. We need less military in Hawai'i. Our people are being overrun by military. We need houses. We need Hawaiian culture. We need to be us, rather than constantly changing them.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:07:12 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Montalbo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will not benefit Kanaka Maoli.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:08:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Ott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

I OPPOSE SB3240 because I do not think that it is the best course of action for for the long-term health and safety of those living seven generations hence.

I do not want to encourage any more of a U.S. military presence in Hawai‘i than is absolutely necessary. Sucking at the military/industrial/government complex teat is not the way to encourage healthy wealth to come to Hawai‘i. I want less reliance on federal money, which encourages control in Hawai‘i by despots like Trump and red state Republicans. U.S. military “invasions” have dire consequences for these precious islands – in physical resources, and in it’s culture. I don’t want to live in a military culture. I want a peaceful, prosperous, caring culture to have the chance to flourish. We can’t do this if we’re running after U.S. military money.

I want the economic development in Hawai‘i to turn toward elder care and medicine. Hawai‘i *could* be the perfect place for wealthy people to come and spend their retirement incomes. Think of all the honorable jobs: all kinds of medical jobs, in-home health care, delivering meals, house cleaning, etc. Retirees don’t come here with families in tow, and they don’t come here to breed. They’re here to die. Let’s help them do it with Aloha, and if only we built up our medical care system instead of the military, Hawai‘i could clean up in the elder care, quality end-of-life business.

That is a sustainable future. Greed for military money is like dealing in drugs. The product is dangerous and unhealthy, but profitable. Question is, are our souls worth the price?

Let’s bring the world’s money to Hawai‘i in a more honorable way.

Please kill the bill. OPPOSE SB3240.

Mahalo,

Vanessa Ott

Citizen for a Better Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:23:24 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Corker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee and its members:

I urge the deferral of SB3240.

The State of Hawaii should be working to limit the presence and influence of the military in this state. The state should not be assisting the military to justify its overpresence in Hawaii--and the damage this has caused, and continues to cause, by focusing military training activities here on a much greater extent than in any other like-sized state. Please defer SB3240 and return Hawaii land to the jurisdiction and control of Hawaii residents.

Bruce Corker

Holualoa, Hawaii County

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:32:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuoa it is inappropriate at best for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - and to exploit our public school students.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development".

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:33:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please use the money for this bill to help feed our students in schools! This is much more important to their health and education.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:49:24 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya K.D. Alana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB3240.

To this day the military, the United States Government, not the State of Hawaii can provide the legal paperwork claiming ownership of any land in Hawaii. There's NO TREATY OF ANNEXATION signed by Queen Lili'uokalani.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:13:12 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara L. George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,-

I write in the strongest opposition to SB3240 which seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these austere times, Hawaii must support the homeless, healthcare access, food/SNAP access, affordable housing, growing our own food supply, public transportation, water quality, environmental, and on and on. DoD/DoW and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#) focuses on public relations, communications, and management of public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. Why are Hawaii tax dollars going to this at all??

Given the very strong community concerns about and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military footprint in Hawai‘i AND given the current federal Department of War's predatory and morally bankrupt hawking of "no rules of engagement" and "kill people and break things" AND the reckless destruction and carnage now occurring in the Middle East due to this war of choice, as well as the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa ad nauseum,

it is unconscionable for the State of Hawai‘i to actively support and fund a PR/grooming/brainwashing campaign to expand the MIC's presence and and influence across the islands, much less get at our public school students FROM KINDERGARTEN.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** . **MACRO intends to bring MIC messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”**. **Hawai‘i State Government should not be allocating OUR tax dollars to support MIC access to our kindergarten and public school students FOR RECRUITMENT.**

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “... integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.” This is deep illness. SHAME!!!

OPPOSE AND DEFER SB3240 and DO NOT PASS IT FORWARD.

Sincerely,

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:56:10 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
paula louise mantel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB3240 because I believe it endangers the well being of our society, especially here in Hawaii, where protecting our citizens from propaganda is of utmost importance. The militarization machine, promoted by our current administration, seems bent on killing anyone who doesn't agree with them. I believe Trump has worked vigilantly to learn as much as he can from Putin and is infiltrating our state government with their lawless and evil ways. We have more important needs, especially with the loss of Medicaid, to protect our citizens young and old. Not wasted for PR for a tool of destruction. We have plenty of military bases with their own PR. ROTC does an adequate job at the highschool level, as well.

As I understand that "SB3240 proposes the use of State taxpayer funds (possibly \$1.3 million) to pay for public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. SB3240 also supports bringing the defense industry messaging into the Hawai'i public school system under the guise of "workforce development".

It isn't the right use of our money. Please support our health and well being of each and every citizen.

Thank you.

Paula Mantel

Oahu since 1981

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:19:28 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:23:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:28:20 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO, is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

SB3240 SDI proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:28:43 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to SB 3240, SD 1 and ask that you defer this measure. SB 3240, SD1 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million. This is funding that should go to support of our own community needs, e.g., homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and not to sustain the war nor impact our educational system's to recruit our students for wokforce development with industrial and defense-related needs.

Hawaii should not be actively supporting and funding a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in our islands.

For these reasons and my deep concerns about this bill, please oppose and defer SB 3240, SD 1 and do not pass it forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition of this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:46:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Katz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

In plain terms, this bill appropriates state general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) through the Military and Community Relations Office, for the purpose of deepening Hawai'i's coordination with federal military and defense operations.

This bill has implications in the further militarization of our youth and island culture. Hawaii is not a military installation, it is a rich and deep land with history and values that served to sustain itself and its people for many generations. Education should be geared toward mālama 'āina and improving the lives of our people, rather than be a force for indoctrination into some pipeline of soldiers.

Bottom line, there are better uses for the funds this bill proposes to commandeer. Reject SB3240.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:59:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wally Inglis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of PBS:

I strongly oppose this ill-advised bill which would waste more than a million dollars of taxpayer money to indoctrinate our keiki. Hawaii already has too strong a military presence. Now some political leaders plan to expand and intergrate this into our nation's military/industrial complex, which is notorious for its waste of resources and pollution of our environment.

With our schools in disrepair, student lunch programs in need of funding, teacher shortages, and general decline in education, the last thing we need to do is exploit our young people for the sake of "evolving defense-related needs."

It is in your committee's power, to do the right thing. Please let this bill die!

Wally Inglis Palolo Valley

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:09:37 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
david gierlach	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill which is geared toward indoctrinating our kids to favor the military industrial complex. Enough! Let's teach peace and nonviolence not Pentagon propaganda.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:32:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please oppose SB3240 SD1 which seeks to strengthen defense related workforce pathways.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:12:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Hauserman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Samantha Hauserman – I am a resident of the Kea'au ahupua'a on Moku o Keawe.

I am submitting testimony in strong **opposition to SB3240**. This bill increases Hawai'i's economic and social dependence on the US military and defense industry. The people of Hawai'i are calling for increased self-determination, environmental restoration, and accountability for the harms caused by militarization. This bill moves us in the opposite direction.

Hawai'i residents already contribute to the U.S. military through federal taxes that fund one of the largest military budgets in the world. Our state should not also be using local taxpayer dollars to further subsidize that system. SB3240 would direct state resources toward strengthening defense-sector pipelines and partnerships. The people of Hawai'i are desperate for more resources towards housing, food security, healthcare, and local business development. Hawai'i already has one of the highest costs of living, and military-driven economies inflate housing and land prices.

Equally concerning is the proposal to expand defense-oriented career pathways for students starting in K–12 education. Schools should be places where young people are supported in developing critical thinking, creativity, and a range of career possibilities. Schools should not be extensions of military workforce programs. Hawai'i's keiki deserve opportunities that nurture community well-being, environmental stewardship, cultural knowledge, and sustainable local economies.

Hawai'i already has high costs from the military presence in our islands, including environmental contamination, land dispossession, and ongoing risks to public health and ecosystems. Incidents such as the fuel contamination crisis at Red Hill demonstrate the profound consequences of military infrastructure on our communities and resources.

Rather than expanding financial and institutional ties to the defense industry, the State of Hawai'i should be investing in sectors that directly support the well-being and resilience of our communities. These include local agriculture, renewable energy, education, healthcare, cultural revitalization, and ecological restoration.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote **“NO” on SB3240**.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:17:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:21:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Kalani Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why are we putting money for military marketing to our keiki? HEWA!! This money should be used to support teachers, after school programs, counseling, family support, (SO MANY OTHER THINGS). Support our COMMUNITY first.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:32:55 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Gaylord	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill intended to strengthen Hawaii his relationship with the military. The military should leave Hawaii because it has done very little good and far more harm to locals and Hawaiians. Strengthening the relationship will only expand that harm. Further our keiki should not be brainwashed into believing joining the military is their only option to cope with unaffordability in Hawaii, which is actually largely caused by military presence. It's a vicious cycle all meant to serve war through sacrificing the most vulnerable citizens. I strongly oppose this bill and ask my legislators to do the same Mahalo.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:49:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Bodien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely wrong and you know it. Stop this bill now.

Thank you,

Richard

Hāwī

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:51:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

David Martin

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 3:03:32 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Bon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not think channeling our kekei to man Trumps wars is a good idea. How about forgiving student loans, or free trade schools or junior college instead?

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 3:12:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isadora Sicking	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully oppose using my children's schools as military recruitment sites. Hawaii is an occupied nation and the children of Hawaii should not be taught destructive military propaganda to recruit our young people to go die for oil and pedophiles.

Furthermore, our economy should be completely separate from the military. The military has historically caused great damage to our environment, culture, and communities. We don't want the military to have more involvement in our economy just to serve imperialist adgendas. NO TO SB 3240.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 3:18:15 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Stillwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I move in strong opposition to SB 3240. AS a community member and mother of a small child, i am distrubed and highly concernd about the implications of this bill and it's impact on our keiki, the 'āina, and our global ohana.

As people living in Hawai'i we have a responsibility to perserve and protect the culture, the land and future generations, and as representatives of the people, ypu have the responsibility and obligation to listen and act on our behalf.

Please oppose SB 3240 and ensure the safety of our community, keiki and our global family. These islands are already under illegal military occupation, and there is no need to further the US war machine and it's destruction of the environment, culture and people.

Mahalo,

Lindsey

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 3:33:20 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Gladden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou

I'm Victoria Gladden and I oppose this bill SB3240. No more military extraction. Having military presence doesn't protect our communities, it puts our families at risk. I will not support risking our communities.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:05:28 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Von Kaanaana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Military has no place in Hawai'i schools. Their predatory tactics disproportionately targeting Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, leads to the disenfranchisement of our people.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:15:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write once again to STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3240. PLEASE STOP PASSAGE OF THIS BILL. The disastrous unfolding of the illegal war on Iran --with even a school for little girls being bombed by US Tomahawk missiles--should give us pause. Hawaii's outsized role as a base for US submarines and other military power makes us complicit in the worst of the violence being visited on the rest of the world by the US. We do not need to let Hawaii become further embroiled as a weapons hub. PEACE not war is at the heart of Hawaii's aloha culture. Please say NO firmly to SB3240. Mahalo.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:17:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240 SDI which brings the defense industry messaging into the Hawai'i public school system under the guise of "workforce development". Please vote against this.

Sincerely,

Mary Marvin Porter

Kea'au, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:20:56 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240, which seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts, and we have much higher priorities for using state funds to benefit the people of Hawaii. Furthermore, MACRO intends to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development," and I am in strong opposition to that too.

Please oppose and defer SB3240.

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:41:06 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's inconceivable - especially at a time the US has demonstrated YET AGAIN that war and profits are its only goal - you would put forth this bill. The US is spending a BILLION dollars a day on an illegal and terroristic war on top of an obscenely huge military budget, all the while cutting benefits and services to ordinary Americans. And as hunger and homelessness spread all over the islands you want to offer them our tax dollars to recruit and propogandise our children into their endless wars?

SHAME - KILL THIS BILL!

(and how dare you discard my original testimony because you rescheduled the hearing!)

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:47:06 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240 which proposes the use of State taxpayer funds (possibly \$1.3 million) to pay for public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. SB3240 also supports bringing the defense industry messaging into the Hawai‘i public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

This is the wrong direction for Hawaii. Don't pass this bill.

Mary Lu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:52:32 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When the military has to raise funds through bake sales, or recycling HI 5 items, or having galas and silent auctions, or parents paying for their son's and daughter's guns and uniforms, THEN I MIGHT consider approving any state funds for it. Short of that, the military can figure out for itself how to get extra money for public relations.

And force-feeding military mentality and indoctrinating our school kids? Not if I have anything to say about it. If the state has extra money, spend it on education, not war. An educated population would not have us in the mess we are in right now.

If the military needs to "manage" public sentiment, maybe it needs to clean up its act (and Red Hill), and refuse to obey illegal orders as military members are constitutionally required to do.

NO NEW STATE FUNDS FOR THE MILITARY!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:57:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelene Kuaana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifetime resident of Maui and native Hawaiian, I wholeheartedly oppose the further militarization of our schools through the creation of pipelines from classrooms to trenches. If children cannot smoke, drink, or rent a car under the age of 18 (or 26, for that matter), then how can a child decide to risk their life for an empire on the brink of collapse? The bill mentions exposing children as young as kindergarteners to military propaganda. How can we, in clear conscience, normalize not just violence, but hypernationalistic violence that justifies nuclear war and genocide, to our children? Children should learn how to sing, dance, and play. Children should be able to address conflict with words and not with guns and boots. Children should not be expendable cogs in the department of defense machine.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 5:01:27 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Idol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in firm opposition to this bill. Its purpose is poorly defined and weakly justified. There is no actual dollar amount included for funding. While DEBDT is listed as the recipient of the funds, there are no specific activities listed or described to be supported. Is this just a giveaway to this state agency (funneled through the federal office)?

I also do not understand the connection to workforce pathways to support military contracts in Hawaii. There are numerous career and technical education pathways in Hawaii public schools that could serve various needs of the military in Hawaii. The state has supported the Chamber of Commerce to establish sector partnerships, and they have had good success in connecting employers to teachers and students. The military is a diverse employer and contractor. They can be encouraged to participate in any number of the sector partnerships. THEIR financial support would benefit the state and the military while engaging with diverse groups of knowledgeable stakeholders within each sector. If they want to improve community relations and intergovernmental coordination, it behooves them to reach out and invest in us, not the other way around.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 5:41:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Kealii Pang, PhD. I submit testimony as an individual resident of Pālolo Valley on O‘ahu in opposition to SB3240 SD1.

My perspective comes from both professional and lived experience. I worked as a Navy contractor from 1997 through 2000 on the unexploded ordnance cleanup effort on Kaho‘olawe. That experience exposed the scale of military impacts on Hawai‘i’s land and ecosystems and the long process required to address those damages.

From a Hawaiian perspective, aloha ‘āina carries responsibility. Care for land, water, and living systems supports the health of present and future generations. State policy should reflect that kuleana.

SB3240 proposes additional state support for the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen coordination with federal military activities. I oppose this measure because the central issue in Hawai‘i has never involved coordination. The core issue involves trust, accountability, and engagement with communities directly affected by military operations.

The Red Hill fuel contamination crisis illustrates this problem clearly. In 2021, the Navy contaminated drinking water for more than 90,000 O‘ahu residents. The incident created widespread harm and damaged public trust. Residents expected consistent, direct engagement from the Navy in the years following the disaster.

Recent developments show the opposite direction. The Environmental Protection Agency approved a change allowing the Navy to stop regular meetings with the Community Representation Initiative, the community group formed after the spill. Instead of direct public meetings, the Navy now plans to provide updates through newsletters, podcasts, and an annual town hall.

Community members have expressed strong concern about this change. Representatives from the CRI described the decision as insulting to the island and harmful to future generations who continue to face uncertainty about water safety. Critics have noted repeated Navy absences from prior meetings and raised concerns that avoiding open forums reduces transparency and accountability.

These developments reinforce a pattern many Hawai'i residents recognize. Communities seek direct dialogue. The military often prefers controlled communication rather than public engagement where questions and answers occur openly.

State funding should not expand programs designed to strengthen military integration while these fundamental trust issues remain unresolved. Hawai'i already hosts one of the largest military footprints in the Pacific. Before further alignment occurs, the priority must involve accountability, environmental protection, and genuine engagement with the people who live here.

My experience working on the Kaho'olawe cleanup effort showed the lasting consequences of military activity on island ecosystems. Those lessons remain relevant today.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to oppose SB3240 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kealii Pang, PhD

Pālolo, O'ahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:32:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please oppose SB3240 SD1 which seeks to strengthen defense related workforce pathways.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:39:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Zimmerman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members,

I am writing today in strong opposition to SB 3240. I will keep this short and to the point: with the removal of federal funding for multiple programs for the state of Hawaii, and the Defense Department receiving a budget of 1 trillion dollars, I do not see why this bill is even being considered. We need taxpayer money going to the benefit of the people of Hawaii, not the Military and Community Relations Office, for public relations purposes. There are so, so many more important bills being put forth in this legislative session. Please, quickly resolve to oppose and defer this bill, so your limited time can be utilized to consider more important bills being put forward this session.

Sincerely,

Bryan Zimmerman

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members -

I write in strong opposition to SB3240, and ask that the measure be deferred.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these uncertain financial times, this funding should be used to support homeless programs, healthcare, and SNAP. The military and defense industries can afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#) is an agency of the State focusing on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment regarding U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

I join in the current strong community concerns about continuing expansion of the U.S. military's footprint in Hawai'i.

I am strongly opposed to the current federal administration's Department of War position of "no rules of engagement." The purpose of the military is NOT to "kill people and break things." The destruction and killing now occurring in the MidEast is completely against my beliefs, and I worry that Hawaii may become a target in this war.

And taking into further consideration the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill, Pōhakuloa, and many other places in Hawaii, **I believe with all my heart that it is not appropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion here in the islands, - AND seeks access to our public school students.**

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry propaganda into our public school system, under the guise of “workforce development.”

Hawai‘i’s State Government should not be allowing and funding defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition. I hear echoes of ‘Hitler Youth’ in these plans for our innocent keiki.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and **integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...**and align workforce development with evolving industrial and **defense-related needs.**”

For these reasons and many more - I beg you to please oppose, and defer, SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Judy Waite

Kilauea

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:55:06 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earl Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

[MACRO](#), is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples -

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
Earl J. Kim

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:10:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First time I've EVER had to re-submit testimony over 'a storm', so I'll say it again. NO on SB3240.

Pretty disgusting the military needs MORE money from us while gorging on \$93 billion in steaks & lobster tails - while our residents are living on the gd sidewalks.

Also disgusting - nearly 100 testimonies that already opposed this bill get dumped in the garbage can a couple of days later
FOR NO GOOD REASON.
It doesn't rain inside of a website.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:05:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Ugai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, SNAP, and other essential services. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

In light of recent events, it is inappropriate for the State to endorse further expansion of the military's footprint on the islands-- particularly when targeting our youth. Hawai'i should not allow or fund defense industry access to our public school students.

Mahalo for your consideration.

March 12, 2026

Aloha, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

My name is Deborah Ward. I am a farmer on the island of Hawaii, and members of my family have served in the military. My son's life and happiness were forever affected by his injuries while in the military. **I stand in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.**

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO).

SB3240 proposes “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

I am appalled that the Hawaii legislature would even consider funding a bill that would indoctrinate our kindergartners with military slogans and worse. The U.S. military and the defense industry are funded to the point that they can buy pianos, steaks and lobster with the money allocated by Congress, They can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts!

Gary Hooser has correctly pointed out that “Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military's footprint in Hawai'i AND given the reality of the current federal administration's Department of War position of “no rules of engagement” and the purpose of the military is to “kill people and break things” AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast – PLUS the U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples – I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion here in the islands – AND seeks access to our public school students.”

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ward

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:41:43 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Linde	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:48:41 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to this bill, asking that it be deferred. If the military feels that such a campaign is desirable, then let them foot the bill; the U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts, as more of our tax money goes to them already than to anything else. Further, it is completely inappropriate for such a PR effort to be brought into schools and imposed on children under the guise of 'workforce development.' Our children are being educated to be responsible citizens who can think for themselves, not drones for the military-industrial complex. Please let this bill stop here.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Mo'ili'ili 96826

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:44:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sigourney Pastorfield-Li	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to this bill. This is a misuse of public funds. We need this money for the people of Hawaii - schools, houselessness solutions, healthcare...

Let's do better than this.

mahalo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:50:26 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support independent governance

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:42:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carla jo harringer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO MORE \$\$\$ to military!!! Feed local people,not corporate war barons.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 5:36:40 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's keep our sovereignty clear of the US military. Thank you.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:14:09 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a gross overreach on the part of the legislature to support the military industrial complex furthering its distraction of our lands, waters, and the futures of our children. We should not be allowing our keiki to be targets for more predatory recruitment by an industry that has been known to poison our lands and waters and to promise false senses of security to folks epically those who the military has systematically disenfranchised from basic resources. Hawaii's local budget is needed for much more important things that bolstering an industry with the largest federal budget and that stands for war, death, and destruction. This is not what aloha is.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:15:47 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Magnotto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure. This bill seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

As an Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, I understand firsthand that this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai'i.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. militaries footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things" AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the MidEast -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa...and so many other examples - **I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students.**

According to publicly available information, MACRO has hired a public relations agency to, **“Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues...”** They also draft press releases, ghost-write oped columns, prepare testimony, issue talking points etc.

MACRO intends now to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students - in order to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

SB3240 proposes “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

With aloha,

Sam Magnotto, PMHNP-BC

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:55:42 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Emery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When we create an economic system that forces so many families into the working poor category, while simultaneously promoting patriotism to pay for higher education and receiving life skills, that is a recipe for a third-world nation.

Hawaiian, multi-generational, and poor people will be the primary targets to sign up to go die in old white men's wars.

These wars aren't about self-determination or sovereignty, since Hawai'i has never relinquished its sovereignty, but are at the mercy of the colonial economic system that continuously pumps out poor people dependent on the dysfunctional and violent system.

Who benefits from war? Wealthy people, weapons manufacturers, the military industrial complex, the energy industry, and most of all the banking industry.

The time to stop using our children as fodder for the wealthy has run its course centuries ago, and yet, we are still stuck in that mentality that poor people who receive no benefits but give the most are the targets of legislation and law.

Aloha
Ben Emery
Honoka'a, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:09:09 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Goodoni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Maya Goodoni, and I respectfully submit testimony **in opposition to SB3240**.

SB3240 proposes to appropriate funding to strengthen the State’s coordination with military and defense-related activities through the Military and Community Relations Office. While this bill is framed as economic development and intergovernmental coordination, it further entrenches Hawai‘i’s dependence on military infrastructure and federal defense spending while failing to address the profound social, environmental, and historical harms that military occupation has inflicted on these islands.

For Native Hawaiians, the question of military expansion and coordination cannot be separated from the ongoing history of land dispossession. The lands currently controlled by the U.S. military in Hawai‘i were largely taken following the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893 and subsequent annexation by the United States. Many of these lands were once part of the Hawaiian Crown and Government Lands, which were intended to benefit the Hawaiian people. Instead, vast portions have been converted into military bases, training grounds, and weapons testing areas.

Today, the military controls hundreds of thousands of acres across Hawai‘i. These lands include culturally significant areas, watersheds, burial sites, and ecosystems that are central to Native Hawaiian identity and survival. Military activities have repeatedly resulted in environmental damage, contamination of drinking water, unexploded ordnance, and the restriction of access to ancestral lands. The recent Red Hill fuel contamination crisis is just one example of the devastating consequences of prioritizing military infrastructure over the well-being of Hawai‘i’s communities.

SB3240 would deepen the State’s investment in aligning Hawai‘i’s economy, workforce, and education systems with military and defense priorities. This approach raises serious concerns about the long-term direction of Hawai‘i’s development. Instead of increasing our dependence on the military-industrial complex, Hawai‘i should be investing in sectors that restore our lands, strengthen local food systems, support cultural stewardship, and build a sustainable and self-determined economy.

Equally concerning is the absence of meaningful Native Hawaiian consultation or governance in this proposal. Decisions about the future of lands in Hawai‘i cannot continue to be made without Native Hawaiian leadership and consent. Native Hawaiians have consistently called for the

return of lands, greater sovereignty, and the restoration of their rights to care for and govern their ancestral territories.

Public policy should prioritize the restoration and protection of lands that sustain communities, cultural practices, and future generations. Continuing to expand state coordination with military activities without addressing land return, environmental remediation, and Indigenous self-determination perpetuates a legacy of injustice.

Rather than investing additional resources in military coordination, the Legislature should:

- Support the restoration and return of lands to Native Hawaiian stewardship.
- Prioritize environmental cleanup and accountability for military contamination.
- Invest in local economic sectors that build long-term resilience for Hawai'i's communities.
- Ensure that Native Hawaiian voices and leadership are central in decisions affecting their lands.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **defer SB3240**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Maya

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:31:11 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240.

Funds should not be appropriated to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) when they are need to provide assistance, such as healthcare, SNAP and homeless programs, to Hawai'i residents in need.

I also oppose MACRO's plans to take defense industry messaging to our public schools under the guise of workforce development.

We need less military involvement in our State, not more.

Thank you.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:48:52 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Supriya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and certainly not funding any military/defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant seeds of support for "defense-related needs". If anything, we should be teaching diplomacy, peace-making, and nonviolent dispute resolution skills in our schools - not promoting the Department of War's agenda

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:04:01 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
edith tyau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice chair Iwamoto, Committee Members:

I am writing this in opposition to SB 3240. Such funding for this measure should not occur as said funding should have a priority in meeting needs of the residents of Hawaii, such as, programs for homeless, health care, food supplies, and the like. I ask that you defer this measure and give priority to the crying needs of residents that such programs could help alleviate.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:36:54 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, and members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe, and I am a mother of two young children—ages six and three. I am writing in **strong opposition to SB3240 SD1**. While this bill is framed as supporting “economic resilience,” it raises serious concerns about the role of military influence in our children’s education and the direction we are choosing for Hawai‘i’s future.

As a parent, I am deeply troubled by language in this bill that seeks to “integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve” to defense-related needs. Our keiki should be learning how to read, imagine, ask questions, and care for one another—not being exposed to messaging designed to normalize or promote war. Decisions about military service, war, and diplomacy are complex moral questions that belong in the hands of informed adults, not five-year-olds just beginning their educational journeys. Yet we also know that adolescent brains and judgment are especially vulnerable to persuasive recruitment messaging and patriotic propaganda that can romanticize military service while minimizing the lifelong physical, psychological, and moral consequences of war. Young people should not be targeted by programs that normalize participation in violence before they are fully able to understand its gravity and implications.

I am also concerned about the proposed use of \$1.3 million in state funds for the Military and Community Relations Office. At a time when Hawai‘i’s public schools face ongoing shortages in teachers, classroom resources, and student support, those funds should be directed toward strengthening education itself—not toward programs that encourage alignment with the military-industrial complex.

Finally, many families in Hawai‘i are already grappling with the environmental and cultural impacts of military activity across our islands—from the Red Hill fuel contamination of O‘ahu’s aquifer to contamination and ecological damage at training areas across the state. Expanding efforts to align our children with this industry ignores the very real harms our communities and ‘āina have experienced. Hawai‘i should be investing in a diversified, sustainable economy that addresses the cost of living, climate resilience, and the well-being of our communities—not building deeper dependence on military expansion.

As a mother, I want my children’s schools to be places of learning, curiosity, and possibility—not recruitment pipelines or training grounds for future militarization. I respectfully urge you to

vote NO on SB3240 SD1 and protect our classrooms as spaces dedicated to education, not military alignment.

Mahalo,

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

Lauren

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:39:18 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverley Brand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Au Belatti and Iwamoto,

I very strongly oppose this bill.

Beverley Brand,

Waikoloa

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:20:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malialani Dullanty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Malialani Dullanty. I am a resident of Moku o Keawe, Hawai‘i Island, testifying in strong opposition of SB3240 SD1, which seeks to appropriate funds of over \$1.3 million to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO).

MACRO is an agency of the State that focuses on public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regard to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. This bill appropriates state general funds to DBEDT through MACRO, for the purpose of deepening Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is intentional institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework. Hawai‘i nei, and Oceania at large, are already one of the most militarized places on earth.

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy. This is not something to be proud of nor celebrate. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993 Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai‘i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And continue to be misused and misappropriated by the military for mere dollars. Yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O‘ahu residents. Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai‘i.

Additionally, the pretense of economic benefit is exaggerated. Theoretical revenue from military spending and sources does not stay on island. It is immediately diverted out of our pae'āina and does not meaningfully impact the lives of locals.

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification; it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future our community has asked for.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Culturally rooted creativity, arts, education, and innovation.
- Entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and are immersed in the cultural and physical landscape.
- Sustainability motivated agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

Investing in military expansion does not align with Native Hawaiian values:

Mālama 'āina (to care for the land) is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT, the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being, sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes short term federal defense dollars over the longterm health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts.

Opposition of SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, allows State Government to redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

There is no reason the U.S. military cannot afford to pay for its own public relations efforts, which makes this bill wasteful at best and nefarious at worst. Notably, the bill's effective date is listed as July 1, 2050, which raises serious questions about the transparency and intent of this legislation. If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

As Federal funding falters, financial need is much higher for social services that actually provide for our communities; such as healthcare, food/SNAP, houselessness protections, education, arts and culture, and more.

We deserve a State Legislature that prioritizes the people, 'āina, and culture of Hawai'i. With that in mind, I oppose SB3240.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Malialani Dullanty

Moku o Keawe

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:25:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to SB 2340**. This measure proposes to utilize state tax dollars to supplement the military-industrial complex—a sector that already receives more federal funding than any other program in our nation. As a teacher at Kūlanihāko‘i High School, I see firsthand the impact of underfunding our local institutions while we prioritize global military interests.

Redirecting the \$1.5 Million Appropriation

SB 2340 seeks to appropriate \$1.5 million in state funds for military-related initiatives. This is a profound misalignment of our fiscal priorities. That same \$1.5 million could have a transformative impact if redirected toward the completion of our local infrastructure. Specifically, these funds could be used to:

- **Fund the Kūlanihāko‘i High School Gymnasium:** Our campus is still incomplete. We are currently forced to operate without a functional gymnasium, which is essential for physical education, student safety, and community gatherings. \$1.5 million would be a critical investment in finishing our school and providing our students with the facilities they were promised.
- **Finish Essential School Infrastructure:** Kūlanihāko‘i was designed to be a model of sustainability and education for South Maui, yet we are still waiting for the final phases to be funded. Our residents deserve a finished school before we spend a single dollar on supplemental military programs.

Priorities: Our Teachers and Our Retirees

It is difficult to justify state spending on the military-industrial complex when we are told the state cannot afford to support its own workforce. We have seen a consistent failure to provide for the basic necessities of our residents:

- **Teacher Compensation:** We struggle with a chronic recruitment and retention crisis because our educators cannot afford to live in the communities they serve.

- **Retirement Security:** The 2012 "watering down" of retirement benefits was a significant blow to public servants. We should be focused on restoring those promises rather than subsidizing a federal sector that is already flush with cash.

Protecting Our Keiki

The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force already have an outsized presence in our islands and are highly effective at recruiting our keiki to fight in foreign conflicts over resources like oil, as we see currently in Iran. We do not need to use Hawaii's tax dollars to amplify these efforts. Our state's priority should be educating our youth and preparing them for a future here in Hawaii, not facilitating their path into the military-industrial complex.

Conclusion

I urge this committee to **Kill SB 2340**. We cannot afford to supplement the federal military budget while our schools remain unfinished and our educators are under-supported. Please redirect these funds to where they are truly needed: our classrooms, our infrastructure, and our people.

Mahalo,
Mista Fitz
Kūlanihāko'i High School Science Educator

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:26:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Shaljian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240, a bill that would appropriate state taxpayer funds—possibly as much as \$1.3 million—to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO) for the purpose of public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment regarding U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. This bill is an inappropriate use of public funds, a betrayal of public trust, and an affront to the communities who have suffered from the military's decades of irresponsible conduct.

In These Tight Budget Times, Our Priorities Are Clear

The Legislature is currently grappling with severe budget shortfalls. We are being asked to make painful choices about funding for homeless programs, healthcare, food assistance through SNAP, and countless other essential services that our most vulnerable residents depend upon. In this context, the idea of spending \$1.3 million on a public relations campaign for the U.S. military is obscene.

The U.S. military and the defense industry are among the best-funded entities on the planet. They do not need—and should not receive—a dime of Hawai‘i taxpayer money to polish their image or manage community sentiment. If the military wants to improve its reputation, it can start by cleaning up its messes, compensating the communities it has harmed, and ceasing its relentless expansion into our limited land and waters—using its own considerable resources.

MACRO's True Function: Managing Sentiment, Not Serving Communities

MACRO is not an agency that serves the public interest. Its focus, as evidenced by its own activities, is public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. According to publicly available information, MACRO has already hired a public relations agency to, among other things:

- "Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues."

In other words, they are surveilling public discourse—tracking what residents say about the military online. They also draft press releases, ghost-write op-ed columns, prepare testimony, and issue talking points. This is not government serving the people. This is government serving as a public relations arm of the defense industry.

The Military's Record Speaks for Itself

The U.S. military's history in Hawai'i is not one that warrants a taxpayer-funded PR campaign. Consider:

- Red Hill: The Navy poisoned O'ahu's sole-source aquifer, sickened thousands of residents, and then engaged in years of evasion, half-truths, and outright obstruction. Families lost trust in their tap water. Children and kūpuna suffered health effects. The military's response was not accountability—it was a public relations strategy.
- Pōhakuloa: The Army's training facility on Hawai'i Island has a long and ongoing history of damaging cultural sites, disrupting native ecosystems, and expanding its footprint despite community opposition.
- Stryker Brigade: The permanent stationing of the Stryker Brigade on Hawai'i Island was imposed over the unanimous opposition of the Hawai'i County Council and thousands of residents who testified against it. The military's response to community concerns? Expansion anyway.
- Nationwide Context: This comes at a moment when the current federal administration's Department of War has articulated a position of "no rules of engagement" and described the military's purpose as to "kill people and break things." We are witnessing, in real time, the destruction and carnage unfolding in the Middle East. The same military machine that operates in our islands is engaged in operations that have killed tens of thousands of civilians overseas. And now we are asked to fund a campaign to make Hawai'i's children feel good about that?

Now They Want Access to Our Keiki

Perhaps most infuriating is the bill's provision to bring defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development." The bill proposes "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

Kindergarten. The bill explicitly seeks to integrate the exposure of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to defense industry messaging. This is not workforce development. This is indoctrination. This is seeding support and normalizing the military-industrial complex in the minds of our keiki before they are old enough to question it.

Our public schools should be places of learning, critical thinking, and exploration—not recruitment centers for the defense industry. If the military wants to recruit young people, it can do so through its own channels, on its own dime, without using the State of Hawai'i as a marketing intermediary. Our children are not tools for the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

A Fundamental Inappropriateness

It is, at best, fundamentally inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion in our islands—and to grant that industry access to our public school students. At worst, it is a betrayal of the public trust and a profound disrespect to every community that has been harmed by military misconduct.

We should be funding homeless programs, not military PR. We should be funding healthcare and food assistance, not data scraping of community sentiment. We should be protecting our keiki from corporate and military propaganda, not delivering them to the defense industry as a captive audience.

SB3240 is a misuse of public funds, a violation of the public trust, and an affront to every resident who has suffered from the military's misconduct. It should be defeated decisively.

I urge this committee to oppose and defer SB3240 and send a clear message: Hawai'i's taxpayer dollars will not be used to polish the image of an institution that has poisoned our water, destroyed our cultural sites, and ignored our communities—and we will not surrender our keiki to the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP and more. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

Given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military footprint in Hawai'i -

AND given the reality of the current federal administrations Department of War position of "no rules of engagement" and the purpose of the military is to "kill people and break things"-

AND given the destruction and carnage now occurring in the Middle East -

PLUS when taking into further consideration the U.S. militaries history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion here in the islands - AND seek access to our public school students.

MACRO intends to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development".

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students.

[SB3240](#) proposes (paraphrase) "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure

of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”

Please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Gurney

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 12:04:23 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure. I am a Hawai'i public school teacher and this bill deeply concerns me.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support important social programs in our state. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands given the current strong community concerns and opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military's footprint in Hawai'i – AND seeks access to our public school students. This is unacceptable!

For these reasons and many more – please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 12:09:12 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

kimdonghyeon

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 12:40:42 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Una Greenaway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. As American citizens, we are already funding the US military to a degree that is not helpful for our citizens basic needs.

Please don't support the brainwashing of our students to join the military. They may end up in Iran or fighting a ridiculous war that our president starts in a willy nilly fashion.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Una Greenaway

Kealakekua, Hawaii island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 12:41:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

Washington is engaged in a war that none of us asked for, intervening abroad to again make the United States a target of anger and frustration. Already in Michigan American citizens were attacked by another American citizen whose family was killed by the belligerents. For heaven's sake please let us not spend money to recruit our own children into this vicious cycle of violence!! Not to mention to kill someone else's children abroad!

U.S. out of Iran, U.S. out of Hawaii, Hawaii State dollars out of U.S. military pockets.

PLEASE defer SB3240.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 12:45:11 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pleasd kill this bill.

We already piss away far too much money on the military.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:01:33 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Baang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). For the following reasons, I oppose SB3240.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

Mahalo,

Brad Baang

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:14:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha // I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Hansen / Hakalau HI 96710

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:21:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill L Nunokawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au-Bellati, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Members of this Committee,

My name is Jill Nunokawa and I strongly oppose this bill, both in spirit and intention, for so many obvious reasons that it's shocking it was introduced and agreed to by the Senate.

My father was born in the 1920s and described the Hawaii he was raised in before December 7, 1941. He, like so many of his generation, immediately enlisted and fought in WWII. When he returned he was one who took advantage of the GI Bill and received his PhD in Psychology.

This short background is the context in which I submit my testimony.

The Hawaii I was raised in was post-WWII, but we lived with the legacy of War and it's harmful impacts and influences to our conditioning and patterning of acceptance and obedience. I have testified countless times in front of the Board of Regents of UH opposing the UARC and the use of our beloved public institution of higher education for purposes of the DoD and its ongoing war efforts. My earnest outcries have fallen on deaf and corrupted ears. Now, I am submit testimony in hopes this specific committee will defer the matter until an appropriate time to engage in the real conversations of our time. DoD money is not worth the inevitable damage to our future generations in environmental spills, another attack like Pearl Harbor, the utter lack of control of the DoD's Mission and unethical fashion it goes about "doing business" in Hawaii, and the lasting adverse impacts to the life of aloha aina and malama pono that are the bedstones of our island nation.

This is our historical moment. We are posed with difficult challenges and none more heartwrenching than War, death and our children. I have and continue to remain steadfast against the furtherance of the DoD's War mission, especially in its control and use of Hawaii and our students, at all ages. It must stop, especially since most residents have no idea of what it means and how outrageously harmful it has been and will increase to be as the DoD, which is now referred to as the Department of War, intensifies its extraction and exploitation of our intellectual properties, "make no waves" mentality, and "Space Force"/Vanguard Computer Center/TMT/and all other classified operations in Hawaii the legislature has no access to.

I appreciate your votes to defer this troubling matter and your courage to do so under extreme pressure by forces outside this state that have corrupted this specific matter, as well as the larger

control the DoD (Department of War) continues to shamelessly exert over our beautiful archipelago.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:23:54 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240 which would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging—especially considering the harm the military has done to our communities and environment. Passing this bill would be truly egregious.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development. This is propaganda and should be kept out of schools if our schools are to be truly safe places of learning and opportunity.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kristen Young
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:42:50 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE SB#3240.

I urge you to use our limited tax money to help citizens who need it - children, the elderly, the ill, the houseless, etc. Our money should NOT go to "workforce" training that promotes more military presence on our islands. Enough already!

Ramona Hussey

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:49:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Burt Furuta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to SB3240. Despite benefits that members of the legislature and others may find in this bill, I believe that the State cannot afford the appropriation made in SB3240. Consider that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) recently passed by Congress and signed by the President, cut about \$1.4 trillion from social services, including Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, other public health and social safety net programs, and housing and immigrant health programs. The OBBBA added \$150 billion to the Defense Department (DOD). In addition to the cuts, some funding was shifted from the Federal government to the states.

A CNBC 2024 study found that Hawaii had the highest cost of living relative to income of any state, using data from SmartAsset and the MIT Living Wage calculator. Local families are leaving Hawaii because of the high cost of living. Even before the passage of the OBBBA, Hawaii needed to strengthen its safety net. On the first Saturday of every month, the Food Bank has a food give-away at Ruth Keelikolani Middle School. One Saturday I was passing by and saw a line of cars going around the block, not once but twice around the block. There are too many working people going hungry, and otherwise struggling to survive.

With the passage of the OBBBA, the State was given an additional burden to care for our most vulnerable, while the DOD was given a big boost in its budget. SB3240 has misplaced priorities. The money proposed in SB3240 to help strengthen our relations with the DOD, should be spent instead to help those who will lose healthcare and food assistance, and other social services.

Thank you.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:53:06 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Rose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because of the historical deceitfulness of the US military in Hawaii. I do not want my tax dollars going toward supporting a bloodthirsty regime that holds the intention to harm people, the land, our resources, and especially our children. Thank you.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:05:53 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Evans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Martha Evans

Honolulu, O'ahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:23:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose SB3240.

Everyone living in Hawaii is aware of the military presence and it does not need public relations promotion. This bill would use state taxpayer funds up to \$1.3 million for public relations work instead of the urgent funding needed for housing, healthcare, food assistance when federal funding has been severely cut and many people cannot afford medical insurance.

Also, the pseudonym of "workforce development" may be misleading. School programs to encourage career development in the military or defense industries should be determined by parents not government.

I urge the committee to deny SB3240.

Mahalo for your dedication.

L. Osterer, registered voter and long term resident
Koloa, Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:23:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong *opposition to SB3240*.

I unequivocally oppose using state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Darcy, Kula, Maui, HI

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:52:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

As much as I respect the introducers, Senators Fukunaga and Chang; I am stunned that they would want to divert state funds to help the federal Navy improve community relations, and, as it seems, to ultimately entice and recruit Hawaii's youth into the military.

The U.S. Government has a substantial enough budget for its marketing propaganda, and certainly should not take funds that could be used to improve the daily lives our keiki for nutrition, technology, and educational activities.

The Navy destroyed its own reputation with decades of concerted lies, deceit, and covering up its negligence of the Red Hill fuel tanks. Hawaii's taxpayers' hard-earned money should not be used to help the Navy save face.

The Navy needs to clean up every drop of oil and fuel in our aquifer before it can come around asking for a handout.

Please do not pass this unnecessary bill that would be a total waste of state money.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:52:23 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shane rohan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the use of taxpayer money to support the war machine that our nation continues to build without taking care of us at home.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:06:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma French	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Emma

Honolulu, Oahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:11:13 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Avallone	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members:

This comes to register strong opposition to SB3240. With up to 15% of our recent federal tax dollars already going to the military, it's not clear why our state should be taxed further to support what appears to be essentially a propaganda undertaking. This proposal should not advance.

Historically, transparency and accountability have not characterized the military's communication with the Hawai'i community. Clearly this proposal disregards the opposition to expanded military presence in the islands following such lacks, for example, in the Red Hill crisis and Pōhakuloa controversy. It seems unlikely that investing state money in MACRO would correct or prevent such failures of responsibility however much it might try to mollify public opinion regarding them. Nor would such investment address the contamination, destruction, and desacralization of Hawai'i lands that accompany the military misuse of them.

As a retired educator, I am especially appalled at this bill's targeting of school children. What "career pathway" in the military should be introduced to kindergarteners? What "manufacturing" opportunities should elementary education to develop? In light of recent U. S. military manufactures supporting the bombing of thousands of innocent children in Gaza and the bombing of the girl's school in Iran, it is particularly unsettling to suggest that the children of Hawai'i stand to benefit economically from being trained to serve the military. With the federal government's investment in the military standing at three times the investment in education, our state funding could much better go to real education that would equip our keiki to engage in work that would benefit, not harm our islands and other peoples.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:15:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand on my testimony previously submitted on time for the March 13, committee hearing, I CONTINUE to STAND Strongly OPPOSED to SB 3240 SD1. And emphasizing that I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development. We should not be a PR avenue for the US military.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:24:58 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Daniel Bishop and I am in Strong opposition to SB 3240 or any funding that is meant to spread a false naritive that the U. S military industrial complexes Illigal Occupation of Hawaii has any benifit to the majority of Kanaka Oiwi.

The presence of the US military is abusive to our Lands, Environment, and Quality of Life to most residents of Hawaii. Military Occupation, and thier personel/ dependents are competing for resources (housing, potable water, clean air, open spaces for recriation etc.) while adding to the already deteriorating environmental issues facing future generations(sewage, land fills, polution).

The popoganda that they provide "jobs" and are here to "protect us" is used to justify the presence of this very harmful industry. The jobs that are provided in the civilian sector dose in no way balance the cost of the misuse and lack of payment for the Lands that are occupied.

The idea of "protection" is also a misleading lie. The truth is that there is No Country on this planet that could prepare, launch, and sustain a military invasion of Hawaii. The concentration of the military here Makes Hawaii a Target.

THE FAKE STATE SHOULD COME TO THE RIGHTFUL, LEGAL CONCLUSION THAT THE HAWAIIN KINGDOM NEEDS TO BE, ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS, REINSTATED.

Daniel Bishop

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:32:04 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendall Krumm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. I am absolutely appalled by the very notion of this bill. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging. The military industrial complex has enough federal funding to fund whatever objective they have. If they would like to work on community relations and sentiment, they can dip into their own coffers to do so.

As a former educator, I can tell you there are multiple FREE and CHEAPER alternatives the military can utilize in creating a better relationship with our K-12 schools. Community partnerships do not need 1.3 million of state tax payer money to achieve great results for our community and Keiki. I would rather see that 1.3 million go DIRECTLY to our school budget.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development. I see no where in this bill respect, understanding, partnership with Native Hawaiian lands, culture, people or the recognition that the military is operating and controlling stolen lands. If we want there to be a better community relationship with Hawaii and the military, I suggest we start there instead of submitting our keiki to american propaganda to fight wars for the rich and powerful.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kendall Krumm
Kailua, Oahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:35:03 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

‘O Kāhea ko‘u inoa. No Poamoho mai au, akā noho au no Kuli‘ou‘ou. He haumana au ma ke kulanui o Hawai‘i ma Mānoa. Ke kākau nei au i kēia testiminy, no ka mea, ‘a‘ole au mamake any amount of our taxes to go towards funding, supporting, benefiting, or providing the U.S. Military the chance, opportunity, or space to infiltrate, influence, and coerce our future generations throughout the lāhui to aid in the genocide, destruction, and loss of life that the U.S. Military is responsible for. Hawai‘i is food insecure, has a housing crisis, and limited resources. We must focus on these issues and provide students with basic necessities, not using the money for the U.S. Military. Our schools should be a place of safety, prosperity, and love for students, families, teachers, faculty, and the overall community. Taxes should be used for extracurricular activities that foster and promote making Hawai‘i and the world a better place, not murdering people and damaging their environments. Please oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Kāhea

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 3:42:53 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 5:00:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 5:13:05 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL. PLEASE DO NOT PASS IT.

Giving money to the military for marketing to improve community relations is like setting up a *Go Fund Me* for Mark Zuckerberg so he'll have money to improve relations with Kauai residents mad at him for his land grab.

The military does not need or deserve our money. If the US government or military wants to improve community relations and market itself to Hawaii's keiki, then they should do it on their own dime - not the Hawaii taxpayers'.

And while they are at it, they should clean up the mess they caused at Red Hill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 5:33:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence S Franco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a 82 year old lifelong resident of Maui. I am a senior deacon in the Catholic Church and believe that we must be first and foremost providing services to the "least of our brothers and sisters" (Matt 25). This bill sounds to me that we are providing funds to our military to share their story with us, the Hawaiian residents. I think that, if they want money for PR, they should ask the Federal government. They have a larger share of our tax dollars to do PR work to our Hawaiian residents.

Stan Franco

Haiku, Maui

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:01:31 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Charlene Kiana Rowley,

Kula, Maui

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:01:47 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauralee Dice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Thank you,

Lauralee Dice

1479 Thurston Ave,#201

Honolulu, HI 96822

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:19:28 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei K Ayat-Verdadero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit testimony in strong opposition to Hawaii Senate Bill 3240. SB3240 would further align the State of Hawai‘i with the priorities of the U.S. military and defense industry by encouraging institutional, economic, and educational partnerships that prioritize defense-related interests. Such alignment risks embedding military influence within state policy and public education systems in ways that are inconsistent with the State’s obligations to protect public trust resources and Native Hawaiian rights.

The military presence in Hawai‘i must be understood within its historical context. Following the Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the subsequent Annexation of Hawaii, approximately 1.8 million acres of Hawaiian Kingdom lands were seized and later transferred to the State through the Hawaii Admission Act to be held in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai‘i, including Native Hawaiians. Today, substantial portions of these lands are occupied or used for military purposes.

Historically, militarization in Hawai‘i has resulted in environmental degradation, restricted access to ancestral lands, and the disturbance of culturally significant sites. These impacts have disproportionately affected Native Hawaiian communities and have repeatedly raised concerns regarding the State’s ability to fulfill its constitutional and fiduciary obligations to protect public trust lands and traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices.

SB3240 would deepen Hawai‘i’s economic and institutional reliance on the defense sector. Expanding this reliance risks limiting the State’s independence when addressing land use conflicts, environmental harms, or cultural impacts related to military activity. Over time, such structural dependence could further weaken the State’s ability to advocate for the protection of Native Hawaiian rights and resources.

Equally concerning is the potential integration of defense industry priorities into educational systems and workforce development initiatives. Native Hawaiian and local students should not be placed in a position where state-supported programs normalize military recruitment pathways or introduce military-aligned messaging within public education environments.

Given Hawai‘i’s history and the unresolved issues surrounding land stewardship and Native Hawaiian rights, policies that further entrench military influence within state institutions should be approached with great caution.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to defer SB3240 and instead prioritize policies that strengthen responsible stewardship of public trust lands, protect Native Hawaiian cultural and environmental resources, and promote economic pathways that are independent of military expansion.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Lei Ayat-Verdadero

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:26:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am shocked and distressed to see SB3240 got to this point through our legislatures processes. We do not need more military propoganda; our children should not be exposed to pro-military career "education". We need to raise generations of people who will find peaceful ways to solve disputes, rather than violent ones.

Expending our financial resources at this time when Hawaii's general fund is threatened by federal action and inaction would deprive even more of our citizens of health, education,and housing.

Please defer this bill for the sake of our society and our needy popuoationsl

Thank you for considering this testimony.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:27:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Sage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not turn our state into trumps militarization of our land, our children abd our community. The military wants our money as billionaires are paying lowest ever taxes and the regime needs to build a ballroom, pay for gold statue and now fund an illegal war.

Take care of the citizens not the dictatorship. Stand strong against funding the evil empire while stripping citizens rights and welfare.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:31:41 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Hart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3240 as creating an unnecessary relationship between the US military and our state K-12 schools. I believe it allows for overreach within or school systems and does not diversify our local economies using our tax dollars.

I oppose SB3240. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:40:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Alana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:44:32 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I urge you to oppose SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Thank you

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:48:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kencho Gurung,
Hilo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:49:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I write today in STRONG opposition to SB 3240 SD1. Our federal government has stripped away an enourmous amount of money from social services that helped float people out of complete poverty in Hawai'i, while it has exploded its military and law enforcement budgets out of the water. Additionally the military has continued to test illegal chemicals, test bombs threatening our water tables, and has already poisoned the drinking water in our most populated island and tried to hide it. The military is not a friend to the residents of the state, in fact they create an imminent threat to our survival, while simultaneously being the worst renters of all time. The military has shown us from Kahoolawe to Red Hill and Pōhakuloa that they will never take accountability for their actions or be good stewards of the lands that have been leased to them, failing to meet the basic minimum standards of oversight for 60 years. Accepting money from the military under the guise of business readiness, workforce education (to lead back to the military) and increase manufacturing, is a slap on the face for Hawai'i residents. It is because of the military that folks can't afford rent because so many service members and family live off base. Throwing pennies at Hawai'i with a bloated budget, in order to look like good stewards is just a show. This bill suggests implementing training from kindergarden to pipeline poor oppressed populations into the military industrail complex actively killing the world. THIS BILL IS IMMORAL. Please vote against it, think of Hawai'i residents before getting bought off by the same entities that bomb schools, we don't need to facilitate their practice.

Mahalo,

Mariana

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:58:31 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert brower	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is horrible timing and archaic thinking to even spend the time to draft such a bill
Hawaii needs to be phasing out the military as an economic base. Not cultivating it further

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:11:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

The State of Hawaii should not use our limited taxpayer monies to help fund this trojan horse of Trump's runaway 'militarism'.

The U.S. military has proved from before the State came into existence that its intentions and actions would always subvert the values and aspirations of local people for the interests of colonial and corporate ambitions.

And the fiasco and attempted coverups with 'Red Hill' taught us once again that they cannot be trusted as stewards of our lands and waters.

Please spare us from further destructive indignities by putting up state monies to boot.

Defer this bill!

Sincerely,

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:09:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3240. Hawaii residents should not have to pay for federal government pr. Stop wasting and draining the state of Hawaii's resources.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:27:57 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pat matsueda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state has such urgent needs as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Pat Matsueda

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:43:10 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure, which seeks to turn Hawaii into a Pacific arms manufacturing hub by creating a student-to-military pipeline, starting in kindergarten. Military indoctrination has no place in our schools at all, and should never be forced on young, impressionable children.

I urge you to please HOLD SB3240 SD1.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:43:11 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to SB 3240, asking that you defer this measure. Frankly I'm aghast that our military who, under Hegseth and Trump are burning through BILLIONS of our tax dollars illegally inciting wars across the globe, now want US to foot the bill for their PR in Hawaii and fund their propoganda in our schools.

What- did they run out of money trying to cover up their MAJOR BLUNDER at Red Hill? Hell no we aren't paying for that. If they can afford lobster dinners every night they can pay for their own damn PR. Try accountability. Then they wouldn't have to pay for all the public relations smoke and mirrors

Kill this bill. Now.

Thank you,

Beth McDermott

Hawaii resident since 1969

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:18:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacynthia Mitchell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou -

I am writing in STRONG opposition to SB3240. Throughout Hawai'i the people are calling for LESS military presence yet our public servants are working to place the military at the core of communities with influence over our keiki. It leaves me asking why and unfortunately, I think I know the answer.

I could go into the many reasons why a vote for this is a vote against Hawai'i but I will simply say this - it is against the law.

The "Aloha Spirit" Law (Hawaii Revised Statutes §5-7.5) is a unique, legally codified philosophy in Hawaii (enacted in 1986) that mandates government officials and encourages citizens to treat others with kindness, unity, pleasantness, humility, and patience.

It represents the "coordination of mind and heart" and is considered a way of life, not just a greeting.

NOTHING about the US military expresses aloha - especially not in Hawai'i so again, I ask why would you want to groom our keiki to be part of a machine designed for death and destruction?

Follow the law and if you can't do that then I pray you find a way to sleep at night knowing your actions did nothing to protect our most precious and innocent.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:35:53 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel it is appalling for this to pass for military gain . It's like we are a mob trying to push our weight around just because we can . To continue to fund for power gain will only end up hurting our State and leave devastating and embarrassing consequences; haven't we (no actually all of you who vote for such savage causes ...) done this too many times prior? For what outcome? Nothing positive that's for sure!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:27:07 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolie Wanger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the proposed bill to direct funding towards supporting military education in our public schools. Our tax dollars should not be used to further expand the military industrial complex in Hawaii, particularly by spreading military propaganda to Hawaii's youth at school where they should be learning about positive ways to contribute to society. These public funds should instead be given to schools to increase their budget for core programs and services or enhancing programs that support artistic and cultural enrichment.

Hawai'i needs to be looking towards a future for its keiki that is less dependent on the military industrial complex not indoctrinating them from an early age into the system of harm that is caused by continued reliance on military presence in Hawaii.

i urge you to vote no on this bill.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:40:47 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to oppose this bill. Do not allow military overreach into our k-12 school systems funded by our tax dollars! Our kids deserve real futures that are built on the sustainability of Hawai'i, culturally and community based. Do NOT sell our keiki out by allowing the US military and their agendas into our schools. Especially under the current administration where separation of church and state and legal prescidence in military action is out the window. Do not give these people access to our children. Our children deserve a better future, this is NOT the way. We can build economic systems within Hawai'i, we the people do not want the military involved in our economy. This is not what we are looking for in economic diversity. For so many reasons, I strongly oppose this bill! I will not send my keiki to a public school that pushes US military agendas. This acts to further push Native Hawaiians and underrepresented groups out of Hawai'i and military service. Please, for the sake of our keiki, oppose!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:25:06 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Laramee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

Please redirect this funding to much needed workforce training in fields that lead to long term, high earing carriers in fields that uplift Hawaiian communities. Hawaii is in much need of community based contractors, plumbers, electricitians and construction workers, healthcare workers, and to ensure the affordability, saftey and health of our communities in the long term. Mahalo for the oppportunity to testify against this bill.

Mahalo, Leah Laramee

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:36:10 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belati, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure. SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

MACRO intends to bring their defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development".

It is wrong for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion here in the islands. Now it wants to access our public school students!

Have we not, as taxpayers of federal taxes, already funded the overfunded military industrial complex? Now we are asked to pay for its PR campaign to NO LESS infiltrate public schools and our children?

The U.S. military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa, just 2 examples of many, should compel us to **be aware** of future harm to our community by the military industrial complex! **If the military needs a PR campaign to be liked and needed, and cannot thrive on its own good merits, something must be wrong.**

Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing, and funding the defense industry's access to our kindergarten and public school students in order to plant the seeds of support.

For these reasons and many more - **please oppose and defer SB3240** and do not pass it forward.

Thank you for hearing my views.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:25:23 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Colón	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Andrea Colon-Aldeguer, testify on behalf of my family. We proudly OPPOSE the appropriation of tax dollars to introduce militarized partnerships between the United States Federal Government and the Islands of Hawai'i. The billions that's mentioned in the bill for an act should be invested in social services, sustainable jobs and community well being. We REJECT making Hawai'i a hub for the military.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:34:37 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dita Škalic	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:35:27 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members,

My name is Mahie King, a resident of Hawai‘i Island, and I am in strong opposition to SB3240 SD1.

This bill proposes appropriating state funds to support coordination and public relations efforts related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i through the Military and Community Relations Office. At a time when our state faces serious budget pressures, these funds should be directed toward the needs of our people. For things such as housing, healthcare, education, food security, arts, and community services.

It sounds like the bill is asking the people of Hawai‘i to invest state money into the military so that the military can then “invest back” into our communities. That feels backwards. The U.S. military already has enormous financial resources. If they truly want to support Hawai‘i’s schools and communities, they should invest directly rather than asking local taxpayers to fund programs designed to strengthen their own agenda.

The U.S. military has the financial capacity to fund its own initiatives. If the military wishes to advance its agenda or strengthen relationships in Hawai‘i, it should do so by investing directly into our communities, rather than relying on state taxpayers to support those efforts.

If anything, the military should be pouring resources back into our schools and neighborhoods, relieving the financial burden on local residents and freeing up state dollars to address urgent needs. Many of our schools are struggling with aging infrastructure and basic maintenance issues. Imagine the difference if those resources were directed toward our schools. My own son attends a school where the restrooms are not even working properly half the time. Our keiki deserve functioning facilities, safe classrooms, and real investment in their future.

True investment in Hawai‘i means supporting the people who live here and care for this land. The local families, teachers, small businesses, and communities who pour into our islands rather than depreciate them.

Redirecting state funds to support military coordination does not move us toward the diversified, community-centered economy that Hawai‘i needs. Instead, we should focus on strengthening

education, supporting local businesses, protecting our environment, and investing in the future of our keiki.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB3240 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mahie

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:39:35 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ilani Nalua'i	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US military should not be able to continue their propaganda, especially to our keiki. They do not belong here and are illegally occupying a NEUTRAL SOVEREIGN NATION.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:33:57 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members

PLEASE OPPOSE BILL SB3240 SD!!!

As a concerned resident of Hawai‘i Island, I am in strong opposition to this bill SB3240 SD1 and if you really care about this aina and her people so will you!

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, arts and culture, and many other things. The U.S. military can afford to pay for its own public relations efforts.

We don't need a deepening of Hawai‘i's coordination with federal military and defense operations. Section 3 explicitly authorizes DBEDT to collaborate with federal and military partners, educational institutions, and private-sector stakeholders to carry out defense-related programs. This is not simply administrative coordination, it is the institutionalization of military dependency within our state's economic development framework.

Where is the transparency and what is the intent of this legislation based on its timing? If this bill's purpose is as benign and necessary as its sponsors suggest, why is the effective date set nearly 25 years into the future?

Hawai‘i Is Already One of the Most Militarized Places on Earth

The bill's findings proudly note that defense-related expenditures constitute a significant share of Hawai‘i's economy, as if that is something to celebrate. It is not. It is a sobering reminder of how deeply our islands have been absorbed into the U.S. military apparatus — without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Native Hawaiian people.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was illegally overthrown in 1893 with the direct assistance of U.S. military forces. This was formally acknowledged by the U.S. government itself in the 1993 Apology Resolution, Public Law 103-150. That wrong has never been rectified. Hawai‘i's lands were not freely given — they were taken. And yet this bill asks us to use state general revenues to further embed military coordination into our economic future.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of military dependency. The Red Hill fuel storage disaster contaminated the drinking water of tens of thousands of O‘ahu residents.

Military training activities have caused irreparable damage to sacred lands across our islands. Pōhakuloa and Waikoloa, on the island of Hawai'i, are still contaminated with depleted uranium and undetonated bombs. Kaho'olawe is still hazardous. These are not abstract concerns — they are lived realities for the people of Hawai'i.

This Is Not the Economic Diversification We Need!

The bill frames military contracting as an economic opportunity. But chasing federal defense dollars is not diversification, it is entrenchment in a system that has historically harmed our communities, our environment, and our culture.

The bill proposes to pipeline our children — from kindergarten through grade twelve — into defense-related workforce pathways. We should be deeply troubled by the idea of aligning our keiki's education with the demands of the military and defense industries. That is not the future for which our community has asked.

True economic diversification for Hawai'i means investing in what makes us uniquely ourselves:

- Arts and culture — our creative economy is rooted in a Hawaiian identity that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world
- Genuine education reform — building critical thinkers and innovators who serve our community, not defense contractors
- Local small businesses — supporting entrepreneurs who live here, invest here, and care for our 'āina
- Sustainable industries — agriculture, renewable energy, ocean stewardship, and cultural tourism that strengthen both our people and our environment

This Does Not Align With Hawaiian Values

Mālama 'āina — to care for the land — is not compatible with further militarization of our islands. The history of the U.S. military in Hawai'i is a history of land seizure, environmental contamination, cultural erasure, and the suppression of Hawaiian sovereignty. Embedding military coordination into DBEDT — the very agency meant to serve our economic well-being — sends a clear message that this legislature prioritizes federal defense dollars over the health, culture, and self-determination of our people.

Oppose SB3240 SD1 in its entirety, and instead redirect energy and resources toward economic development that is truly pono — one that honors our land, our culture, our small businesses, and the next generation of Hawai'i's children.

Our islands deserve an economic vision built on aloha 'āina, not on weapons contracts! Please do the right thing and kill this bill.

Thank you for hearing my plea,

Susan Bambara
Hawai'i Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:37:08 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vicky Farmer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong opposition** to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging. This should be federally funded, not state funded. The federal government has a bloated DOD budget and this should be part of their budget not our state budget.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vicky Farmer
Kona, Big Island

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:49:58 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Morrison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Leila Morrison

Kula, Maui

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:03:47 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection Resurrection. I strongly oppose bill SB3240. I do not want to see my tax money going towards the military. The military has its own budget and should allocate properly to fund this position.

Mahalo,

Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:35:20 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Au Belatti; Vice Chair Iwamoto; and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

I am testifying in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1.

As a kupuna to eight mo'opuna, ranging in age from 23 to 9 years of age, I am frankly aghast at the concept of establishing a "pipeline" for indoctrinating children and youth into what amounts to a military-industrial complex, including manufacture of arms, based in the Pacific!!

I began reading decades ago about the "School to Prison Pipeline" in publications of organizations committed to breaking down the institutionalized racism commonly embedded in law enforcement in Black, Latino, and other economically depressed communities on the Continent. It was a revelation to me. Since then, many of us have become painfully aware that Hawai'i's law enforcement and juvenile justice systems have operated on similar prejudices against Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

If I understand SB3240 correctly, this bill seeks to appropriate funds to DBED and Tourism to "strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities".

To think that Hawai'i's legislators would want to devise a system for inculcating values of militarism and war in our youth is abhorrent to me. The popular media glorifies enough of such activity!

Rather, we need to appropriate funds for programs that **develop cultural pride; and for communication and vocational skills in our children and youth. We need to affirm and help them pursue the values and tools of collaboration and peacemaking. Only then will Hawai'i become a hub of ALOHA and PEACE in the Pacific.**

I urge you to vote against SB3240 SD1!

Mahalo nui loa,
Cheryl O. Ho, Nu'uuanu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:20:44 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
moea king	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

moea king
waikoloa, hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:33:06 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brigitte Leilani Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brigitte Axelrode

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 12:02:37 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sylvia cabral	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All of the people in these islands oppose military entrenchments that will be impossible to remove later. there is no room for war machines, no war manufacturing with chemicals that will poison these islands and the waters. anything with the name rump or hagstaf should be forever banned liked gylsophate

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 12:06:56 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Everette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA!

With so so many needs for our people, our kanaka, our VA... this is a poorly managed use of FUNDS! almost ALL are Tax dollars are going to the DOD (or war!), ICE, DHS, etc. Enough militarization!!! Enough propaganda. they can PAY THEMSELVES. This bill funds the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging. ENOUGH PLEASE. PUT PEOPLE FIRST. NO MORE MANIPULATION.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, and as a MILITARY FAMILY MEMBER, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo! Thank you!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 12:29:11 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Takeno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office's public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai'i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should NOT be used to support military or defense industry messaging. Taxes on our hard earned money should be used to focus on the basic and urgent needs of our communities.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai'i's public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Laurie

Kalihi, Oahu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 12:31:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 1:27:04 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members -

I am writing in STRONG opposition to SB3240. This bill amounts to a theft of our tax dollars for a federal department that has a budget that is out of this world.

Our tax dollars should not go to fund propaganda and military education in schools. The bill CLEARLY has language about propaganda, so don't let the supporters tell you otherwise.

Please vote no on this bill - it's bad for Hawaii, both the land and humans. The funding for this bill will be taken from needs our community has and in these times, it still is not okay to do this.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:15:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge this committee to oppose and defer SB3240 and send a clear message: Hawai'i's taxpayer dollars will not be used to polish the image of an institution that has poisoned our water, destroyed our cultural sites, and ignored our communities, and we will not surrender our keiki to the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

Tina Marie Even

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:21:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Yoro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

I write in **opposition to SB3240**, including all versions of this measure, and urge you to **defer this bill**.

As the federal government funnels more of our tax dollars to funding the Department of Defense, this bill would duplicate efforts, adding critical State dollars to this boondoggle. Our State funds would be better off funding programs that directly address our housing concerns, emergency preparedness efforts, building a robust local food system, and more.

Furthermore, this measure disguises warfare readiness as developing our workforce and improving economic resilience. We don't need that! This is a direct affront to the collective efforts of the departments and organizations addressing the true needs of the State, and it's a shame to see that this measure has moved this far.

Please defer this bill.

Yvonne

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:24:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging. Furthermore, the military has an enormous budget and so can cover their public relations work.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development. Support for such messaging privileges the military above other important workforce needs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Helen Cox

Kalaheo, Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:32:33 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would ask that you oppose this bill. We have so many more urgent needs in our state. Thank you.

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:47:13 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

SB3240 is one bad bill. Please oppose this unnecessary spending.. All when money is tight I would consider this bill to be a travesty to our local citizens.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things.

The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

Considered wisely please.

Mahalo,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:58:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in opposition to SB3240 SD1. I would prefer my state tax dollars to go to a policy supporting healthcare or local food initiatives than one that supports the military industrial complex. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:10:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Roth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose **SB3240**.

This bill proposes allocating additional public funds to strengthen the State’s coordination with military and defense-related industries. While economic development and workforce opportunities are important, increasing state investment in defense-related infrastructure raises serious concerns about Hawai‘i’s long-term priorities.

Hawai‘i already hosts a significant military presence, and further aligning education, workforce pathways, and economic development with defense activities risks deepening the state’s dependence on militarization rather than investing in community-based industries such as renewable energy, local agriculture, climate resilience, and affordable housing.

Public funds should prioritize initiatives that directly strengthen community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and economic diversification. For these reasons, I urge the Legislature to **defer SB3240**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:29:31 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Reith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The military does not have aloha, nor have they demonstrated any interest in aloha.

Putin is propogandizing his students, I think in America we should be educated not indoctrinated.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:48:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cori Farrow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge legislators to vote NO on SB3240. Public education should be a space where life is affirmed and children learn free of violence. The military, military contractors, weapons manufacturers, etc. do the exact opposite of that for our children. We need to invest in sustainable jobs for the 'āina and the people who live here. The military does not invest in community well-being and they actively destroy land and environment. Our tax dollars should support life, not war and death. Mahalo.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:58:10 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Kizer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240. Mahalo. Lori Kizer, Kapaa

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:59:19 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winona T Holmes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel that it is inappropriate at this time that the State support and fund a PR and communications campaign to support the defense expansion in our islands . The defense department can pay for their own PR efforts.I wouldn't want to give the military any type of monetary support given their track record, i.e. Red Hill and the current state of affairs in the Middle East. Please do not pass this bill.

Respectfully yours,

W. Holmes

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 4:27:22 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana L Kaaihue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe strongly that it is inappropriate at best...for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industries expansion here in the islands - AND seeks access to our public school students. The Department of Defense is now the Department of War! I see no benefit from this expenditure, especially due to the current political situation in Washington. Using the DOE for indoctrination of students is shameful. No matter what you are calling it, it is indoctrination. Shameful. Falling into the hands of the current administration, which has brought us into a war that has no winners. I am appalled that this has made it this far in our Legislature.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 4:30:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this measure.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:07:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Goodwin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We, Sharon Goodwin and Ray Catania vigorously oppose SB3240 SD1 and strongly recommend you kill this measure.

We believe the long arms of the U.S. military are NOT environmentally astute in thoughts, and/or assessment, and/or practice and/or clean-up. Red Hill, Pohakuloa and Makua Military Reservation, Oahu are prime examples of "forever" degradations of Hawaii's environment. These degradations may include PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl chemicals) forever contamination. PFAS, toxic, man-made substances remain in our environment, contaminating our drinking water and foods. PFAS carry heavy health risks including cancers, damage to immune system and thyroid, and birth defects. Red Hill, Pohakuloa and Makue, mentioned above are only three of the military degraded, once precious lands in Hawaii State, contaminated and despoiled, rendering them incapable of use.

To think that a Pacific armaments production program would allow Hawaii's residents to thrive is tantamount to believing a fairy godmother will grant you all your wishes. In fact, we greatly fear the opposite. Armaments require the use of toxic chemicals, toxic materials in addition to high-strength aerospace alloys. Nuclear armaments require plutonium and highly-enriched uranium, poisonous to persons and living things. Rare earth minerals, sought by nuclear-capable governments, carry risks to work with.

SB3240 aims to "educate" under the guise of "persuade" 5-18 year olds in Hawaii's schools" systems of the military's "positive workings and careers." In our opinion there are NO positives to an armaments production way of life for Hawaii State. This idea is demoralizing, immoral and lawless. We desire that our progeny grow healthily, safely and well ! !

This is a land of the people and our ancestors and our descendants and the astonishing life that survives here. We vow to protect it.

Sharon Goodwin, Kapa`a Homestead and Raymond Catania, Lihu`e

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:27:58 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Leialoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Joanna Leialoha of Keaukaha. I am submitting testimony to oppose sb3240. I feel we have given and sacrificed a great deal of resources to military occupancy with zero compensation. I feel under current government management the abuse of Land and Kanaka will continue to occur. Please consider the opposition of sb3240.

Mahalo

Sincerely

J. Leialoha and Ohana

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:34:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inam Rahman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB3240

Submitted by:

Dr. Inam Rahman, MD

Physician and West O‘ahu Resident

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to SB3240.

Hawai‘i faces urgent challenges that directly affect the daily lives and well-being of our residents — including housing affordability, healthcare access, food insecurity, and the rising cost of living. At a time when many local families are struggling to remain in our islands, it is important that state resources be directed toward addressing these pressing needs.

SB3240 would allocate up to \$1.3 million in state funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations and communications activities related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. While constructive dialogue between the military and local communities is important, the responsibility for funding public relations efforts related to military operations should primarily rest with the federal government rather than state taxpayers.

I am also concerned about provisions that may introduce defense-industry messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system through workforce development initiatives targeting K–12 students. Educational programs should prioritize broad career exploration and STEM opportunities without promoting specific industries that may raise community concerns.

Hawai‘i has long valued respectful dialogue between the military and our communities. However, the use of limited state funds for public relations activities connected to military operations raises legitimate questions about priorities and the appropriate role of state government.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Dr. Inam Rahman, MD

West O‘ahu Resident

Former President, Hawai‘i Medical Association

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:47:50 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose 3240, absolute opposition to this. The United States Military has shown abuse of money and resources in Hawaii and on the continent. The tourism industry is the line of Military occupation in Hawaii. Currently we see the abuse of power, finances, and harm that the Military is participating in. The lack of accountability and violence is unethical and evil. The military not the tourism boards are not our workforce to be focoused on, our community relations, or path to a better future. Using Military Industrial Complex as a career pathways and action is unethical and should be opposed in every way. The Military and service members are valuable, loving and focused people. The Military system that continues to harm the future is not and should not be further funded to further exploit and have larger propaganda communications work. Hawaii historically and currently is in harms way because of the US military who just bombed a school of innocent children. This same system should not be allowed to enter schools and exploit children ethics and values. This same MIC that sits quiet as a pedophile ring is running the United States cannot convince me they need more support in communication as they are failing to protect their own citizens, an should not have access to our schools.

I oppose SB3240

Thank you , Pahnelopi McKenzie

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:33:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members

My name is Keri Zacher and I am writing today in strong opposition to SB3240.

I see no need for Hawai'i to spend tax payer's dollars for this propaganda. The US military and defense industry can well afford their own funding for public relations.

Taking into consideration the US military's history of irresponsible and damaging conduct at Red Hill and Pōhakuloa and many other examples, why would we trust this would be different.

Based on what I've read SB3240, proposes (paraphrase) "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai'i defense-related pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

This alone fits the definition of propaganda "Propaganda is the deliberate, systematic spreading of information- true, misleading or false- to influence public opinion, emotions, and behavior to serve a specific agenda."

I'm sure the people of Hawai'i could think of many more positive and beneficial ways to spend 1.3 million dollars. I strongly suggest you let them.

Sincerely, Keri Zacher

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:57:47 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Ahsing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). The original request was \$1.3 million.

In these tight budget times, this funding is needed to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, and many other things. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Teresa Ahsing

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:39:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a voter from Maui and I strongly oppose SB3240.

I am a mom and I am so terrified watching our world fall apart - genocide in Gaza, war in Iran and Lebanon, violations of international law in the Caribbean and Venezuela, the list goes on. We teach our children to use their words to resolve conflicts, but then allow our government to annihilate entire populations using military force with bombs and chemical weapons. It is absolutely abhorrent. I believe with my whole heart that we can solve problems without violence. We can come together as a society and choose a better way.

This is why I am writing today, to plead with you to please protect our keiki by reigning in the military. We have entrusted you with the responsibility to protect us and to help build a better world for our keiki. This looks like not allowing military propaganda to be taught in our schools to our precious keiki. It also looks like not manufacturing weapons of death to be used for killing and bloodshed on our beautiful islands. Please vote no on SB3240.

The military does not keep us safe. They pollute our lands; as the #1 institutional polluter on earth, they exacerbate the climate crisis, producing insane storms like the one that hit us this weekend; and their presence makes us a military target. It's time to pivot and invest our community resources into things that truly keep us safe - affordable housing, local food systems, universal healthcare, quality educational systems, resilient infrastructure in the face of the climate crisis. Let's put people over profits; let's divest from war and death and choose life and liberation for all. No on SB3240. Mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:46:40 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Allison Shiozaki. I live on Hawaii island. It is frankly unconscionable that in this given moment we're living in that anyone would believe the US military is doing anything but cause war and death. It may not be why people join, but it is the fact as an institution. It is a well known fact that the US military is the largest consumer of fossil fuels - planet wide, and the largest polluter, for easy local answers: see Kapukaki, Makua valley, Pohakuloa, Kaho'olawe-- how many more islands, our precious Moana are we going to allow them to destroy? The answer needs to be none. Enough!! The US military is quite literally by definition the thing between global citizens and safety, by that I mean, an actual livable planet. Partnering with AI, which is draining our water supplies and murdering little girls in Iran, the US military is a reign of terror and is now asking us to induct our children with their propaganda? Absolutely not, should be your answers. The US military needs to clean up, get out, and stay the hell away from our children. Quite frankly sick to my stomach this is even a question. 2029 is the off ramp. To a livable planet.

Sincerely,

Allison Shiozaki

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:03:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Ebata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I'm writing in very strong opposition to SB3240 which seeks to appropriate funds in the amount of \$1.3 million to the DBEDT Military & Community Relations Office.

We live in uncertain times; federal funding is erratic and unreliable with decisions based on capricious reasoning at best. This funding is needed instead to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, education, affordable housing, climate catastrophe mitigation, many other important issues. With a budget in the billions of dollars, the U.S. military and defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations endeavors.

SB3240 also seeks access to our public school students under the guise of "workforce development". The very thought of this is terrifying. Do we really want to formally indoctrinate our children in the ideology of war? In this the 21st century, it is time to teach about global peace, not war.

Please oppose SB3240 and protect Hawaii and its children from this overreach.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ebata

Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:20:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kumella Aiu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose SB 3240. Please keep the military out of our schools.
Mahalo,

Kumella Aiu

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:30:36 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Brandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB3240.

Our community's trust in the U.S. military is already fragile; using state resources to further its recruitment reach, especially toward our keiki, is a betrayal of the public's trust. We should be investing in our people, not in subsidizing military expansion. I urge the committee to reject this measure.

Please vote no on SB3240.

Mahalo,

Peggy Brandt

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Athan Nguyen, I am writing in **strong opposition** to SB3240. This bill raises concerns in the directions of Hawai'i's futures due to the military presence in Hawai'i and its attempts to integrate its influence into children's education.

The bill frames itself as providing "effective workforce and industry development" through exposure to students K-12 to career, college, and internship opportunities, however, aligning with industrial and defense-related needs. The language of this bill seems to focus on preparing children for labor and promoting normalization of military warfare within learning environments. The priority for children's education should be reading, writing, individual development, growing social relationships, and global sustainability. Children should be focused on their educational developments and should not have to be making decisions of military service at a young age, which only grown adults should have the responsibilities of deciding that on their own. Children should not be exposed to the glorification of weapons, warfare, and violence that comes along with military recruitment where teens are known to be targeted and influenced to make decisions in military recruitment before they have fully developed the ability to understand its true implications.

The \$1.3 million in state funds for the military proposed would encourage alignment with the military-industrial complex, however, funding should be focused on strengthening educational progress with more teachers, student support, classroom resources, and school programs, where schools in Hawai'i have experienced shortages in.

This bill strives to align children of Hawai'i with an industry known for its most militarized presence in islands that have already experienced harms and environmental impacts to its communities and many culturally significant sites. Hawai'i has and continues to struggle with the aftermaths of the contamination crisis of the Red Hill jet fuel leak that poisoned drinking water aquifers, the lead poisoning of water from Pu'uloa Firing Range, the contamination of PFAS "forever chemicals", and environmental destruction of culturally connected sites of Makua and Pohakuloa from live-fire training areas that occupy these lands. So, SB3240 ignores this saddening history that communities and the 'āina have experienced instead of supporting children whose families and communities continue to grieve, struggle, or fight to make a living despite these harms that continue to impact people's quality of life.

I respectfully urge you to vote **NO to SB3240** and protect our children's education and future without aligning to military influence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Athan Nguyen

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:54:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Hughes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whome it concerns,

As a concerned citizen and a scientist I wholeheartedly oppose this bill. Taxpayer money should be spent on residents not warfare it is that simple. It is well established that emissions from war are pushing us past climate change tipping points, at a time when we as a species must unite or face extinction. I urge you all to oppose this bill, which would place the future of Hawaii's keiki at risk both by funneling them into "defense" programs and by contributing to climate emissions via war. Hawaii has the opportunity to set itself apart from the world as a leading nation integrating indigenous knowledge with science and technology to bring forth dynamic solutions to the threats posed by climate change. I humbly ask that you consider investing tax payers funds into future facing programs for all of Hawaii rather than the imperialistic death machine that America continues to unleash upon this earth.

Mahalo,

~Laura Hughes

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:07:45 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roselani Oga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was told by Senator Lorraine Inouye's office on 3/3/26 that SB3240 was dead yet here it is again?

SB3240 proposes the use of State taxpayer funds (possibly \$1.3 million) to pay for public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. SB3240 also supports bringing the defense industry messaging into the Hawai‘i public school system under the guise of “workforce development”.

As a State taxpayer.....ABSOLUTELY NOT!!

Roselani Oga

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:19:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marley Alexandra Kalikopuanoheaokalani Aiu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3240 SD1 - Strong Opposition

March 16, 2026

9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

I, Marley Aiu, STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3240 SD1.

In 2050, my children will be attending school, here, in our home, where I didn't have the chance to grow up because of economic barriers that led to my displacement - barriers that are enforced around the clock by the ongoing militarization of our land and our people.

There is no appropriate amount of money to allot to the grooming of children for war. The initial proposal of 1.3 billion dollars is egregious and insulting. Investing in militarization divests from the opportunity for Hawai'i's children and adolescents to lead the way to agricultural abundance and generational health where an 'Aina-centered scientific future is fed and perpetuated by the arts. This bill proposes the opposite — enticing youth to participate in the the demise of their grandchildren's future and calling it "security" is laughable when many of us are acutely aware of the US military's lack of care for their employees. As many of the testifying organizations and individuals have plainly stated: the United States military and its parasitic presence in Hawaii nei has not proven protective. "Job opportunities" and the proposed "security" this bill would bring would only ensure the safety of a small, select percentage of individuals residing in Hawaii. The \$1.3 could be used for a number of other initiatives and actions that would actually care for the safety and wellbeing of Hawaii and the people who care for the islands - cleaning up Mākua and Pohakuloa, for one.

Do what is right for our keiki and ensure their days are filled with strategies that connect them to their sovereignty, not a fascist machine.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

M. Kalikopuanoheaokalani Aiu

SB3240 SD1 - Strong Opposition

March 16, 2026

9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

I, HA'AHEO K. AUWAE-DEKKER **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3240 SD1.**

During a time of extreme political unrest, with all Americans having their taxpayer dollars go towards funding wars and genocides on behalf of Israel, it would be a travesty for Hawai'i to not only invest taxpayer dollars but our future generations to the continued desecration of the Earth. The proposal of this bill taking effect in 2050 terrifies me as a current resident and citizen of Hawai'i. In 2050, I hope I will have had children by then. Future children who I am already terrified at the thought of bringing into this fraught world with the state of the environment, descent into fascism, and violence. Future children who I fear will be brought up in a state that allows grooming into an institution like the military which causes such duress on a person. Having come from a family with several generations of veterans, I have witnessed the physical, mental, and emotional toll that the military and war has brought upon my family. To imagine that pain inflicted on our descendants reminds me that if the State of Hawai'i supports this bill then this committee does not care about the wellbeing of our next seven generations but maintaining a sense of power on behalf of the United States of America under the guise of safety.

Safety is not created or maintained in an arms race headed by the United States. Safety is created and thrives under a community with an abundance of skills and resources such as farmers, artists, fishermen, educators, and children. Safety will be created by my future children. However, this can only occur with our generation building a foundation that fosters the diverse paths that they can take.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Ha'aheo Auwae-Dekker

Aloha,

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am presenting this testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB3240.

As a long-term resident of Hawai'i and current college student in the University of Hawai'i System, I ask that you defer SB3240. This bill will deplete necessary funds from our community while also reflecting endeavors more suitable to the strengthening of US military pursuits than is considerable to the developing youths of Hawai'i that would endure said integrations.

The intentions of this systemic integration in early education instruction is centered on military advancement and economic exploitation than it is of youthful development and futuristically assuring to their navigation of self-sustenance and productivity. The content that this bill contains does not suit our evolving generations because what is estimated to be conducted initiates more conflicts than benefits to recipients of Hawai'i.

The effort of SB3240 is a camouflaged initiation into recognizable enslavement.

The real agenda(s) disguised to support future generations of Hawai'i threatens the potential for them to truly thrive and survive in a system that lawfully is disintegrating and will require their dependence on synthetic stability pretended to be secure without extraction.

I considered joining the US military post-grad, and placing myself into workforce development. Alternatively, I worked in 'āina where real *workforce development* was practiced. Alternatively, I pursue Native Hawaiian activists and kūpuna to learn about how real *national defense* is exercised.

I did not and do not need SB3240 to prevail, and neither will our keiki.

Inequity is an understatement.

Mahalo for your time,

Kaiulani Kalua

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:13:40 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing today in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

SB3240 seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO). Here are my reasons for opposing this bill:

First, it is inappropriate for the State of Hawaii to actively support and fund a PR campaign for defense industry expansion here in the islands, given current community concerns and strong opposition to further expansion of the U.S. military footprint in Hawaii. These community concerns include the jet fuel leak at Red Hill, the toxic waste and destruction left behind from bombing Hawaiian lands, and the ongoing devastation in the Middle East by an illegal war being conducted with “no rules of engagement” and without Congressional approval.

Second, in these tight budget times, our tax dollars are needed to support healthcare, food self sufficiency, SNAP, environmental clean up, homeless programs, and many other things like free school lunches. The U.S. military and the defense industry can well afford to pay for their own public relations effort.

And third, the Hawai‘i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public school students under the guise of workforce development.

For these reasons and more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Mahalo,

Alyce Dodge

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:04:27 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 16, 2026, 8:06 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Haney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240, a bill that would appropriate state taxpayer funds—possibly as much as \$1.3 million—to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO) for the purpose of public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment regarding U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. This bill is an inappropriate use of public funds, a betrayal of public trust, and an affront to the communities who have suffered from the military's decades of irresponsible conduct.

In These Tight Budget Times, Our Priorities Are Clear

The Legislature is currently grappling with severe budget shortfalls. We are being asked to make painful choices about funding for homeless programs, healthcare, food assistance through SNAP, and countless other essential services that our most vulnerable residents depend upon. In this context, the idea of spending \$1.3 million on a public relations campaign for the U.S. military is obscene.

The U.S. military and the defense industry are among the best-funded entities on the planet. They do not need—and should not receive—a dime of Hawai‘i taxpayer money to polish their image or manage community sentiment. If the military wants to improve its reputation, it can

start by cleaning up its messes, compensating the communities it has harmed, and ceasing its relentless expansion into our limited land and waters—using its own considerable resources.

MACRO's True Function: Managing Sentiment, Not Serving Communities

MACRO is not an agency that serves the public interest. Its focus, as evidenced by its own activities, is public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. According to publicly available information, MACRO has already hired a public relations agency to, among other things:

- "Utilize automated data scraping tools to collect and analyze relevant public commentary from news sites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to assess evolving sentiment toward military-related issues."

In other words, they are surveilling public discourse—tracking what residents say about the military online. They also draft press releases, ghost-write op-ed columns, prepare testimony, and issue talking points. This is not government serving the people. This is government serving as a public relations arm of the defense industry.

The Military's Record Speaks for Itself

The U.S. military's history in Hawai‘i is not one that warrants a taxpayer-funded PR campaign.

Consider:

- Red Hill: The Navy poisoned O‘ahu's sole-source aquifer, sickened thousands of residents, and then engaged in years of evasion, half-truths, and outright obstruction.

Families lost trust in their tap water. Children and kūpuna suffered health effects. The military's response was not accountability—it was a public relations strategy.

- Pōhakuloa: The Army's training facility on Hawai‘i Island has a long and ongoing history of damaging cultural sites, disrupting native ecosystems, and expanding its footprint

despite community opposition.

- Stryker Brigade: The permanent stationing of the Stryker Brigade on Hawai‘i Island was imposed over the unanimous opposition of the Hawai‘i County Council and thousands of residents who testified against it. The military's response to community concerns?

Expansion anyway.

- Nationwide Context: This comes at a moment when the current federal administration's Department of War has articulated a position of "no rules of engagement" and described the military's purpose as to "kill people and break things." We are witnessing, in real time, the destruction and carnage unfolding in the Middle East. The same military machine that operates in our islands is engaged in operations that have killed tens of thousands of civilians overseas. And now we are asked to fund a campaign to make Hawai‘i's children feel good about that?

Now They Want Access to Our Keiki

Perhaps most infuriating is the bill's provision to bring defense industry messaging into our public school system under the guise of "workforce development." The bill proposes "to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs."

Kindergarten. The bill explicitly seeks to integrate the exposure of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to defense industry messaging. This is not workforce development. This is indoctrination. This is seeding support and normalizing the military-industrial complex in the minds of our keiki before they are old enough to question it.

Our public schools should be places of learning, critical thinking, and exploration—not

recruitment centers for the defense industry. If the military wants to recruit young people, it can do so through its own channels, on its own dime, without using the State of Hawai'i as a marketing intermediary. Our children are not tools for the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

A Fundamental Inappropriateness

It is, at best, fundamentally inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to actively support and fund a PR and communications campaign designed to support the defense industry's expansion in our islands—and to grant that industry access to our public school students. At worst, it is a betrayal of the public trust and a profound disrespect to every community that has been harmed by military misconduct.

We should be funding homeless programs, not military PR. We should be funding healthcare and food assistance, not data scraping of community sentiment. We should be protecting our keiki from corporate and military propaganda, not delivering them to the defense industry as a captive audience.

SB3240 is a misuse of public funds, a violation of the public trust, and an affront to every resident who has suffered from the military's misconduct. It should be defeated decisively.

I urge this committee to oppose and defer SB3240 and send a clear message: Hawai'i's taxpayer dollars will not be used to polish the image of an institution that has poisoned our water, destroyed our cultural sites, and ignored our communities—and we will not surrender our keiki to the defense industry's workforce pipeline.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:24:09 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 16, 2026, 8:07 am

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reyna Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

I REY JOHNSON STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3240 SD1.

Our taxpayer dollars should support education, healthcare, housing, and climate resilience. No more propaganda that normalizes war and poaches the children in our schools.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:25:56 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 16, 2026, 8:07 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto & Committee Members,

I, Lorrie Ann Santos, of Ha'iku, Kane'ohe, O'ah am writing in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that this measure, which is very bad and could set a dangerous precedent, be stopped, or at the very least deferred.

I strongly oppose the use of State taxpayer funds to pay for public relations, communications, and managing public sentiment with regards to the U.S. military operations in Hawaii.

I strongly oppose bringing the defense industry messaging into Hawaii public schools under the guise of work force development.

SB3240 must be stopped!

What does need your support is funding to support homeless programs, healthcare, food/SNAP, local agriculture for food sustainability, and many other important things impacting Hawaii and its people.

'O wau iho no (Yours truly),

Lorrie Ann Santos

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:36:57 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 16, 2026, 8:07 am

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jubilee Ellison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members -

I'm writing in strong opposition to SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure.

[SB3240](#) seeks to appropriate funds to the DBEDT Military And Community Relations Office (MACRO), at an original request of \$1.3 million. This funding is needed elsewhere in this challenging budget reality, and it is well known that the military is well funded and can pay for their own community relations efforts— which, as described, are designed to produce targeted media propaganda of the now “Department of War”. Further, [SB3240](#) proposes, paraphrased, “to enhance communication and responsiveness, strengthen Hawai‘i defense-related workforce pathways, and integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve...and align workforce development with evolving industrial and defense-related needs”. Our community needs many things— and this is not one of them. Please protect our community from this type of engagement by not providing funding for it from our already tight budget. This is an irresponsible use of our limited financial resources and overreach into our schools that will not be well-received by constituents.

Please, oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

Sincerely,
Jubilee Ellison

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:18:15 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Lukashevsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3240 SD1 - Strong Opposition

March 16, 2026

9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose SB3240 SD1.

It is disappointing that there is such a lack of imagination when it comes to the possibilities for our keiki in Hawaii. Under the guise of neutral worded “community relations and coordination” this bill proposes to increase the exposure of keiki to the defense industry. This is an industry that is well-documented in destroying our Aina, the health of this land and the health of its peoples. This bill proposes that we should integrate messaging in public schools around an idea that the military and defense contractors are integral to life in Hawaii, as if it is not antithetical to tie them to an industry that is poisoning our bodies and waterways (red hill, pohakuloa, live fire training). Hawaii’s youth is already bombarded with military propaganda, from recruitment targeting lower income students in vulnerable situations, but you want to increase this to build up the U.S. defense industry, not help these kids. If this bill passes— you are unequivocally are saying that want to teach keiki that the best way for them to survive is to tie their livelihoods to the decimation of brown bodies in Palestine, Iran, Yemen, Venezuela, and anywhere that the U.S. decides that they want to target next.

Why not invest in creative pathways, agricultural pathways, technology pathways so that our kids can grow up to help Hawaii instead of hurting it? Why don't you believe in better futures for our keiki?

How disappointing. I hope that you this committee can think more deeply about the impact that these messages make on impressionable minds, and how limiting they are to our keiki.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ashley Lukashevsky

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:34:29 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keilani Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members –

As a recent graduate and new to the workforce I do not find this bill helping as you may think. I respectfully ask you to defer this bill for the sake of our youth which this will negatively affect the next generation. Our state tax fund should go to what our community is in dire need such as healthcare, education, housing, and homelessness are just a few to mention. Workforce development programs are vital for our state; however, implementing the military into K-12 should not be the best use of our funds.

I'm writing today asking each of you to oppose the SB3240 and ask that you defer this measure. The current administration is mismanaging our federal funds and now we will be handing over additional funds to support their mission and goals.

The military is intertwined on each island they should not be involved influencing our youth as young as K-grade, 5 years old. Hawai'i State Government should not be allowing and funding the defense industry access to our kindergarten and public-school students - to plant the seeds of support and counter opposition.

As a military dependent I respect my connections and benefits my father had to sacrifice for me and my family. But Hawai'i Nai is so much more than military and tourism. The guise that this is a workforce development only narrows the pathway for our children.

For these reasons and many more - please oppose and defer SB3240 and do not pass it forward.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:45:44 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raquel Runnels	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 3240

Committee on Public Safety

March 16, 2026

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Raquel S. Runnels, a Kanaka ‘ōiwi, in opposition to S.B. 3240.

- Priority of Coordination – If intergovernmental coordination with the military is a goal, a primary focus should be the cleanup of Red Hill and protection of O‘ahu’s drinking water.
- Use of Public Funds – The U.S. military already has the largest federal budget. It is unclear why state funds would be used to support communications or activities related to the defense industry or how this bill would support the “private sector.”
- Recruitment in Schools – Military pathways already exist through ROTC programs and the University of Hawai‘i’s UARC designation. Expanding exposure beginning in kindergarten is alarming.

This bill appears unnecessary, alarming, and it is unclear how it will meaningfully support the “private sector.”

‘O au iho nō me ka mahalo piha,
Raquel S. Runnels

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:46:22 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalia Kapisi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a voter from Maui and I strongly oppose SB3240.

I am an aunty and I am so terrified watching our world fall apart - genocide in Gaza, war in Iran and Lebanon, violations of international law in the Caribbean and Venezuela, the list goes on. We teach our children to use their words to resolve conflicts, but then allow our government to annihilate entire populations using military force with bombs and chemical weapons. It is absolutely abhorrent. I believe with my whole heart that we can solve problems without violence. We can come together as a society and choose a better way.

This is why I am writing today, to plead with you to please protect our keiki by reigning in the military. We have entrusted you with the responsibility to protect us and to help build a better world for our keiki. This looks like not allowing military propoganda to be taught in our schools to our precious keiki. It also looks like not manufacturing weapons of death to be used for killing and bloodshed on our beautiful islands. Please vote no on SB3240.

The military does not keep us safe. They pollute our lands; as the #1 institutional polluter on earth, they exacerbate the climate crisis, producing insane storms like the one that hit us this weekend; and their presence makes us a military target. It's time to pivot and invest our community resources into things that truly keep us safe - affordable housing, local food systems, universal healthcare, quality educational systems, resilient infrastructure in the face of the climate crisis. Let's put people over profits; let's divest from war and death and choose life and liberation for all. No on SB3240. Mahalo!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:56:21 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:56:49 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3240.

This bill would use state taxpayer funds to support the Military and Community Relations Office’s public relations work related to U.S. military operations in Hawai‘i. At a time when our state faces urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and food security, these funds should not be used to support military or defense industry messaging.

I am also concerned about efforts to bring defense-related messaging into Hawai‘i’s public school system under the label of workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer SB3240.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Keala Fung
Honolulu O'ahu