

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 WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 23, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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](mailto:walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil); 808-844-6087

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 10:56AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

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

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 (SB3240), 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 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. The Chamber believes that an investment in MACRO is an investment in a more 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 Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii'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.

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:53:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and WAM Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative for Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of members and supporters statewide we stand 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

We find the following section of this legislation focused on indoctrinating our children starting in kindergarten to choose the military as a career path to be particularly egregious and essentially unethical: *“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.”*

The US military does not need any more help from Hawaii tax payers' tight budgets to recruit students into their services. The US Department of War budget for 2026 is \$1.42 Trillion. The US spends 10 times more on the military than the next 10 countries combined and 8 of which are US allies, and we are not even 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, as well as, 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 they 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.

As we are all aware, the State has a very tight budget this year, and the federal budget is also being cut putting essential social services at risk of losing funding.

We know that the Hawaii State economy is predominantly based on income from tourism and the military. Legislation like this is siloing our youth into only two career path choice fields. To ensure a robust economic future Hawaii must expand job opportunities into other essential career fields, like teaching, doctoring, nursing, renewable energy, and sustainable agricultural development.

Please VOTE NO on SB3240 SD1, because Hawaii tax payers cannot afford to waste our hard earned money on recruitment for the extremely well funded 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**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 10:56 AM  
Conference Room 211 or via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.



**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

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Statement of  
**Laurie McAllister Moore**  
Executive Director

Military and Community Relations Office  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
10:56 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240**  
**RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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. 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.

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:13:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB3240. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr, Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:44:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L.Perry, Support the INTENT OF THE SB

3240 SB RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

60% WORKERS FROM THE 808, 5 YEARS RESIDENTENCE

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:53:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carlos A. Santana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB3240.

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:00:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As if this year, the Department of War has ***\$1.42 Trillion*** in budgetary resources, 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.

This bill 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?

I strongly oppose this measure that would 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 U.S. **Period.** I urge the committee to oppose SB3240 SD1 and use our taxpayer dollars to support real economic opportunities that actually benefit our communities.

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:21:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and honorable members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i , I write to you today on behalf of our principaled members. We are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1. As a military family member, I can testify that the Military is NOT a good Steward of the Land. the Military is not a good Steward to Military Families. The Military is NOT a good steward for the communities they pollute. We should NEVER offer our children to the military in any capacity. What exactly are Hawaii's evolving industrial and defense-related needs ?? sounds like the Governor is making more back room deals with the military.

Lets provide lunch , houses, free buses, healthcare for our keiki, instead of brainwashing them into the military industrial complex. It is a killer, trust me. Many young men and women are maimed for life as they go to "protect their country " and their country is not protecting them.

We , the people of Hawai'i, do not want to be the hub for Pacific arms manufacturing! Full Stop. Please catch Abby Martins film "Earths Greatest Enemy" , this Friday night in Hilo or Saturday night in Honolulu, to fully understand the Military Industrial Complexes long term plans to keep us in perpetual wars.

With Great respect the Green Party of Hawai'i urges the Committee to HOLD this very bad measure.

Mahalo ,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauiilo



**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:43:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 which would provide funding for military-related "education" for our children. This is not a proper use of State funds to encourage our young people to go into the military. Hawai`i cannot become a center for war-related manufacturing. Use those funds for other, more sustainable work force development, in fields that actually help us care for each, not KILL each other.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:13:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
February 24, 2026

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**I strongly oppose this bill, SB3240 SD1 "Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office." I urge you to vote against it.**

**Our children and adolescents, even adults, must never be led to think that killing is normal or that war is normal.**

**Our islands must not be turned into a "hub" for military armaments. This attempt to prostitute Hawai'i nei and make it a servant of military operations must be stopped.**

**I strongly oppose any attempt to brainwash our children and adolescents into thinking of our island home as a hub for military operations. The attempt to do so is atrocious.**

**We need to teach our young people to live in aloha and peace.**

**All people of the islands need to be free from the reach of death and destruction that is embodied in this bill and its intent.**

Please vote against **SB3240 SD1**.

Mahalo for helping our young people to be free from violence.

Eileen Cain,



Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**SB-3240-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:56:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Hooser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please kill this bill. Spending state taxpayer funds to indoctrinate kindergarten kids and high schoolers to support the department of war's mission and objective of "killing people and breaking things" (as per the Secretary of War's many public statements) is totally wrong. Even in "normal times" the question of choosing between war, diplomacy, and peace - and the morality of such decisions - must be approached with sensitivity and not simply with a mission to "align" or "integrate" - AND we should not be using state taxpayer funds to do the "communications" need to sell the public on the military's mission in Hawaii and around the globe. Why not fund and align and integrate our public school students with the principles taught at the Spark Matsunaga Institute of Peace?