



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
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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 PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Monday, February 9, 2026
3:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240

RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, 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 also respectfully submit an amendment for consideration, to update all mentions of our office's title in the bill to be written as follows: "Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO), as opposed to "Military Affairs and Community Relations Office" as listed in the Report Title.

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.



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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 PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Monday, February 11, 2026
3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240

RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
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DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

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

BY

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

February 10, 2026

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee, 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.

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

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair**

**Monday, February 9th, 2026, at 3:15PM
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference**

RE: SB3240 Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, 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: "Our mission is 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 finding opportunities of military-civilian overlap create opportunities around workforce development, emergency preparedness, and public school infrastructural improvements. 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 economic future marked by military partnership.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3240. 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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:34:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2026 3:15:00 PM

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 Hawaii is important to the military due to “its strategic location.” Hawaii is so important, yet we need to use \$1,300,000 from what’s left of our tax dollars to court them?

I strongly oppose this measure that would lead to further militarization of Hawaii. 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 Hawaii, 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 and use our taxpayer dollars to support real economic opportunities that actually benefit our communities.