

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2605 HD2
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
ADJUTANT GENERAL
April 1, 2008

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on House Bill 2605 HD2. This bill exempts members of the National Guard, military reserve, or armed service, including the Coast Guard from State and county vehicular taxes and fees for non-commercial vehicles.

We strongly support House Bill 2605 HD2.

If House Bill 2605 HD2 is passed, it exempts good standing members of the National Guard, reserves, or armed services, including the Coast Guard from county vehicular taxes and fees for their privately owned vehicles. We concur that this measure should be applicable to personal vehicles owned by our military members and not to commercial vehicles.

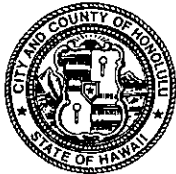
Passage of House Bill 2605 HD2 would strongly indicate to the members of the Guard, reserves, or armed services, including the Coast Guard, especially those that recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan that Hawaii truly cares and supports their duty to State and nation. Incentives and benefits such as this exemption would certainly influence our highly trained and experienced soldiers to remain in the Reserve Components, active military, and the Coast Guard, and would also assist in our recruiting program. It has always been our intent to exempt all individuals of the guard, reserves, active military, and Coast Guard from the fees and registration as long as they are good standing members

throughout their military career. The administration fully supports our military members for their support in our nation's war on terrorism and our state during disasters.

Chair Baker, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony strongly supporting this very important measure.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



JEFF J. COELHO
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

March 31, 2008

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 2605 H.D.2, Relating to the Armed Services

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 2605 H.D.2 which provides the members in good standing of the National Guard and Reserves the same exemption of motor vehicle weight taxes and fees as their active duty counterparts who are stationed in Hawaii on official military orders.

Since the counties already have procedures for the active duty service members, there will be only minor changes to procedures and computer programming that will be necessary to implement this program.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that the effective date of this bill be amended to October 1, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
Licensing Administrator

DAK:bk



**The Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii**

Since 1850

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 1, 2008; 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2605 HD2 RELATING TO ARMED SERVICES

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlie Ota and I am the Vice President of the Military Affairs Department of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The Department oversees the Military Affairs Council (MAC) which serves as a liaison seeking solutions to issues of common concern to the military, private sector, and state.

The MAC submits testimony in support of House Bill 2605 HD2, relating to the Armed Services, which proposes to provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for members of the National Guard and Reserves. This exemption is similar to the exemption extended nonresident military personnel under the federal Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act.

The US military has undergone a transformation that has resulted in creating a single military force consisting of active duty, reserve, and guard units. Hawaii residents have witnessed this transformation as thousands of Hawaii's National Guards and reserve members have deployed and will continue to deploy in fighting the ongoing global war against terrorism. This bill will result in providing an equal vehicle tax and registration fee exemptions to all members of the US armed forces in Hawaii.

In light of the above, the MAC strongly recommends approval of HB 2605 HD2 and respectfully requests the committee change the defective date to an effective date of July 1, 2008.

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: CMSgt Craig Harimoto
154 Wing

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

Chairwoman, Vice Chair and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2605, which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for Hawaii National Guard and reserve members. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss this important benefit as it relates to our State Guardsmen.

This bill will help balance the out of pocket cost to guardsmen and it is a key to improving recruitment and retention in the Guard and Reserves. The financial help will also show that the state recognizes the commitment of the guardsmen and reservists to our State, its citizens, and our nation.

We all know that the cost of living and the living wage in Hawaii is disproportionately high in comparison to the average income. For most families, any financial help is greatly appreciated, and in the case of the guardsmen, who make personal sacrifices on behalf of the state, the financial help would also honor their commitment and recognize their efforts.

In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have a balanced force of Guardsmen throughout our state with National Guard being present on almost every island. In the last few years, we have seen that you can count on the Guard to respond quickly and effectively across a wide range of natural or man-made disasters, with Soldiers and Airmen trained and equipped to deal with any emergency that may threaten the citizens of Hawaii and our guests.

As beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated service, the people of this State bear a special responsibility toward United States military forces, and I hope that you choose to honor that responsibility today.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

CMSgt Craig Harimoto
154 Wing



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3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: [Elijah Lincoln]
[Hawaii Air National Guard]

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES**

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[Elijah Lincoln]
[Hawaii Air National Guard]

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: Martin Moerschell, Lt Col
Headquarters, 201st Combat Communications Group
Hickam AFB, HI

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

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Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

Respectfully,



Martin Moerschell, Lt Col, Hawaii Air National Guard
Headquarters, 201st Combat Communications Group
Hickam AFB, HI

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: [Roddy R Paguyo]
[293rd CBCS HIANG]

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES**

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[Roddy R Paguyo]
[293rd CBCS HIANG]

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 31, 2008

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Senator Shan Tsutsui
Vice Chair, Ways and Means Committee

From: Senior Master Sergeant Edward T. Omine
292 Combat Communications Squadron
Kahului, Maui, HI

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2605 Relating to the Armed Services

Madam Chairwoman and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this bill which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for Hawaii National Guard and Reserve members.

Madam Chairwoman, this bill sets the foundation to provide the State of Hawaii the best possibility to recruit and retain our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. It means we can continue to have a Guard that can respond to local emergencies, helping the state and county government to help the people of this state in ways we cannot imagine. As you may recall, our unit, along with Guard personnel from Oahu were instrumental in providing local support for two recent state emergencies on Maui, the 2006 earthquake (Kipahulu/Kaupo) disaster relief effort and the Kula storm water damage clean-up this past December through February.

The current hardships presented to members of the National Guard due to the current war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq has made it very difficult for our recruiting and retention programs in Hawaii and especially, on the island of Maui. Your support for HB 2605 will surely help our recruiting and retention effort to increase the strength of our "hometown" military organizations. Without this strength, support of future local disasters will be greatly affected.

Madam Chairwoman, we are one of the last states that do not have some sort of motor vehicle incentive program for members of the National Guard. With nearly 90% of the Hawaii Army National Guard having deployed overseas, it is imperative to send a clear message that the state appreciates this sacrifice. Passing this bill will help achieve this. Ironically, our active duty counterparts currently enjoy the benefit of a reduced vehicle registration fee while still using the same roads that we do.

Economically speaking, the federal government infuses a tremendous amount of dollars into the state by funding Guard and Reserve operations. These dollars are taxed with revenues flowing

back into the state and local coffers. We cannot afford to lose these sources of tax revenues by closure of any base or operations due to a lack of Guard personnel.

Your support of this bill will be greatly appreciated by all members of the National Guard and Reserve of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Senior Master Sergeant Edward T. Omine
292 Combat Communications Squadron
Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association
75 Kuleana Street
Kahului, Hawaii 96732
Phone: 448-8135

testimony

From: Uehara Owen SMSgt 154 MXS/MXMP135 [owen.uehara@hihick.ang.af.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 9:49 AM
To: testimony
Subject: HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

I hereby give written testimony to the for the following:

RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES.

Provides an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for members of the National Guard and Reserves. Effective October 1, 2020. (HB2605 HD2) - WAM Freedom is not free. Members and Families of our local military pay their part by dealing with hardships physically, mentally and financially. Some even pay with their lives. You can help with part of the financial problems. The Armed Services have and will always be there when we need them. Please pass this bill for those that serve our great nation and state. Our military families would appreciate the break.

Mahalo,
Owen K. Uehara

testimony

From: Gonsalves Marc Maj 169 ACWS OL-AA/CC [marc.gonsalves@hihick.ang.af.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 9:49 AM
To: testimony
Subject: HB 2605 - Exemption of Vehicle Taxes & Registration Fees

Attachments: 2008032702 Template Testimony Letter for HB 2605.doc



2008032702
emplate Testimony .

Aloha,

Please find attached my testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 2605. A hearing has been scheduled for HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES, which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for members of the National Guard and Reserves. The hearing is scheduled for April 1, 2008 at 10:15 in Room 211.

The attached testimony plainly outlines HB 2605's benefits to people like me. In truth though, I did not join the Hawaii National Guard - nearly 20 years ago - for tax breaks. At my enlistment I was engaged, living at home and working for a Hawaiian non-profit agency for \$15,000/year. I saw the Guard as a way of getting ahead by gaining marketable skills and valuable training. Today, I'm still happily married, have been blessed with three wonderful children, and earn a comfortable living ALL THANKS GOES TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD.

I'm indebted to the Hawaii National Guard. To honor my debt, I have deployed to far places like South Korea and Saudi Arabia, not to mention all the training courses and conferences that takes me away from family (birthdays, anniversaries, kid's activities/sporting events, etc.) The Guard today has greatly changed from twenty years ago; as guardsmen we've accepted the fact that deployments will be longer, and personal/family sacrifices greater.

Regardless, I will continue to serve as long as the Guard will have me.

There are far better men/women in the Guard who unselfishly serve this state and their country, day to day, year to year. This is an important bill that recognizes their contributions and helps to offset such sacrifices. I can appreciate the difficulty of your job: issues that are associated with money must be scrutinized and openly discussed as to their merit. Though my physical address is Waimea Kauai, I would be inclined to fly over and testify on behalf of 2605 if given adequate lead time to schedule leave from work and secure air & ground transportation.

Thank you for you time.

V/r,
//signed//

M. Aukai Gonsalves, Maj, HIANG

<<2008032702 Template Testimony Letter for HB 2605.doc>>

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: Major M. Aukai Gonsalves
154th Air Control Squadron
PMRF Barking Sands, Kauai HI 96752

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES**

Chairwoman, Vice Chair and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2605, which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for Hawaii National Guard and reserve members. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss this important benefit as it relates to our State Guardsmen.

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Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

Major M. Aukai Gonsalves
154th Air Control Squadron

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE, Exempt vehicles of Hawaii national guard and reserves

BILL NUMBER: HB 2605, HD-2

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Finance

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 249 to provide that all noncommercial motor vehicles registered to a member of the national guard, military reserves or armed services, including the coast guard, who is: (1) assigned to a unit in the state; and (2) a member in good standing, shall be exempt from the vehicle weight tax and registration fees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2020

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure proposes to exempt noncommercial motor vehicles registered to a member of the Hawaii national guard, reserves, armed services, or coast guard from the motor vehicle registration and weight taxes.

Inasmuch as the motor vehicle weight tax and registration fees are user charges designed to recover the cost of construction and maintenance of Hawaii's highway system, there is little justification for exempting national guard personnel. Regardless of the motorist's status, resident or nonresident, active or reserve, all motorists use the state highways and should therefore lend a hand in paying for good and safe roads. Note well, that any exemption granted to a select group of users requires that the lost revenues be made up by those who must continue to pay. Motorists who will have to pick up the additional cost created by this proposed exemption should hold those who would propose such an exemption responsible for raising their taxes. Given the impending fiscal crisis of the state highway fund, it makes little sense to reduce the potential revenue to the fund by exempting this class of motorists.

This measure amounts to nothing more than pandering to the current situation. While troops are deployed to areas of danger at the moment, this is not always the case for the national guard and reservists. There is no indication that this select group of motorists is in need of relief from the tax and registration fees and, therefore, there is no justification for this proposal. Administrators, as well as lawmakers, need to separate the two issues and look at the fact that they are in office to insure the efficient operation of state government that provides services to those who pay for those services. They should stick to the business of running government rather than trying to make photo-op points.

Unlike providing an exemption from income taxes for service personnel deployed in a combat zone, which is provided by both state and federal laws recognizing the hardship circumstances for those who must leave their regular employment, the vehicle weight and registration fees are user taxes for the privilege of using the public roadways. It is not as if the national guard or armed service reservist is not here to drive on the state and county roads. They and their dependents will continue to drive on the state and county highways and will also demand that the roads be pothole free and safe. To that end, as users of the roadways, they should be asked to shoulder the cost of maintaining those facilities.

Digested 3/31/08

install such devices.

If it is the intent of the legislature to encourage a greater use of renewable energy systems by extending the existing energy tax credits to include solar thermal energy systems, as an alternative, consideration should be given to a program of low-interest loans available to all income levels as is being proposed in HB 2101. However, if the taxpayer avails himself of the loan program, the renewable energy credit should not be granted for projects utilizing the loan program as the projects would be granted a double subsidy by the taxpayers of the state.

Low-interest loans, which can be repaid with energy savings, would have a much more broad-based application than a credit which amounts to nothing more than a "free monetary handout" or subsidy by state government for those taxpayers who more than likely can afford to make the conversion. A program of low or no-interest loans would do much more to increase the acquisition of these devices. Persons of all income levels could borrow the funds, make the acquisition, and repay the state program in an amount equal to the avoided costs that their utility bills would now reflect. While this recommendation has fallen on deaf ears in the past, the above-mentioned proposal would help put such devices within the reach of more people. The credit, on the other hand, merely becomes a windfall for those who are able to come up with the up-front costs for such devices. This leaves the poor and lower-middle income families still dependent on fossil fuel energy.

If lawmakers truly want to provide a financial incentive for taxpayers to make the switch to using these alternative energy devices while taking advantage of the credit, then a program of no-interest, or low-interest loans would be far more effective. The state could provide the capital to acquire these devices, and the taxpayer could receive a discount of 30% provided by the federal tax credit. The amount of the state loan could then be amortized by the energy savings realized by the taxpayer.

Merely providing federal and state tax credits ignores the reality of living in Hawaii, that is, most families don't have the resources to make such a large capital outlay while struggling to put food on the table.

Digested 3/31/08

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR



KURT KAWAFUCHI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

SANDRA L. YAHIRO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PHONE NO: (808) 587-1510
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 2605 HD 2
RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES**

TESTIFIER: KURT KAWAFUCHI, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION (OR DESIGNEE)

DATE: APRIL 1, 2008

TIME: 10:15AM

ROOM: 211

This bill proposes to exempt Hawaii residents in the armed services, reserves, or National Guard from the vehicle tax and registration fees imposed under Chapter 249, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Taxation (Department) supports this measure.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD—This legislation provides for a much-deserved exemption from the vehicle tax and registration fees associated with licensing a motor vehicle. This exemption is extended to members of the National Guard, reserves, all branches of the armed services, including the Coast Guard, provided the individual is in good standing and a resident of Hawaii. Members of the various armed services that protect this country should be exempt from taxation on their vehicle, especially since their absence when called to duty would otherwise result in the payment of these fees for the nonuse of an automobile.

REVENUE ESTIMATE—Assuming a current effective date, this legislation will result in a decrease to the State Highway Fund of approximately \$741,000 per year. The Department estimates average weight per passenger vehicle to be 4,560 lb. By applying \$0.01 per lb state tax rate and adding \$25 registration fee, the average tax and fee per vehicle is \$70.6. The Department assumed all members of National Guard and reserves (6,200) to be exempted from the State motor vehicle weight tax and fee. Based on the US Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2004-2005, the Department estimated the number of armed services qualified for the exemption to be 4,302. Total amount of exemption would be \$741,000.

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: Robert Carvalho
154 CF / HIANG

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

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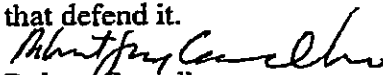
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As beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated service, the people of this State bear a special responsibility toward United States military forces, and I hope that you choose to honor that responsibility today.

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Robert Carvalho
154 CF / HIANG

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3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
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March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: SMSgt Ronald W. Mendoza
292 CBCS

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Respectfully,
Ronald W. Mendoza
292 CBCS

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March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: John R Lakatos
154 Communications Flight
Hawai'i Air National Guard

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

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This bill will help balance the out of pocket cost to guardsmen and it is a key to improving recruitment and retention in the Guard and Reserves. The financial help will also show that the state recognizes the commitment of the guardsmen and reservists to our State, its citizens, and our nation.

We all know that the cost of living and the living wage in Hawaii is disproportionately high in comparison to the average income. For most families, any financial help is greatly appreciated, and in the case of the guardsmen, who make personal sacrifices on behalf of the state, the financial help would also honor their commitment and recognize their efforts.

In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have a balanced force of Guardsmen throughout our state with National Guard being present on almost every island. In the last few years, we have seen that you can count on the Guard to respond quickly and effectively across a wide range of natural or man-made disasters, with Soldiers and Airmen trained and equipped to deal with any emergency that may threaten the citizens of Hawaii and our guests.

As beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated service, the people of this State bear a special responsibility toward United States military forces, and I hope that you choose to honor that responsibility today.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.


John R Lakatos
154 CF
HIANG

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: SSgt Christopher B. Cordeiro
154 MXS / MXMP15

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

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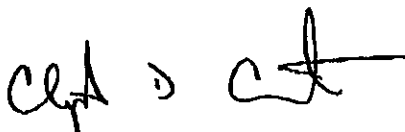
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Christopher B. Cordeiro, H1ANG, SSgt
154 MXS / MXMP15

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: Gillian Carvalho
154 Communications Flight, Hawaii Air National Guard

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

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Gillian Carvalho

154 Communications Flight, Hawaii Air National Guard

testimony

From: Degele, Dee [ddegele@hawaiiidws.org]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 3:08 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony In Support of HB 2605 Relating to the Armed Services

TO:

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2008
TIME: 10:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2605 HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairwoman, Vice Chair and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to

3/31/2008

testify in support of HB 2605, which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for Hawaii National Guard and reserve members. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss this important benefit as it relates to our State Guardsmen.

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Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

v/r

//SIGNED//

DOLORES L. DEGELE

PO Box 1011

Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749-1011

Telephone: (808) 987-6329

testimony

From: Felipe, Charmaine [cfelipe@hawaiidws.org]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 3:20 PM
To: testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony In Support of HB 2605 Relating to the Armed Services

TO:

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2008
TIME: 10:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2605 HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

v/r

//SIGNED//

SPC. GERONIMO O. FELIPE

P.O. BOX 665

Pepeekeo, Hawai'i 96783

Telephone: (808) 987-6329

testimony

From: Tanaka Claire SMSgt 291 CBCS/SCB [claire.tanaka@hihick.af.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 3:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony In Support of HB 2605 Relating to the Armed Services

Importance: High

TO:
THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2008
TIME: 10:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2605 HD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairwoman, Vice Chair and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2605, which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for Hawaii National Guard and reserve members. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss this important benefit as it relates to our State Guardsmen.

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As beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated service, the people of this State bear a special responsibility toward United States military forces, and I hope that you choose to honor that responsibility today.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

v/r

//SIGNED//

CLAIRE L TANAKA, SMSgt, HIANG

SCB Flight Superintendent

291 CBCS/SCB

1300 Kekuanaoa Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4568

Voice: (Comm) 808 448-7120 (DSN) 315 448-7120 (Local-Hilo) 808 961-6355 Ext 7120

Fax: (Comm) 808 448-7118 (DSN) 315 448-7118

HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 31, 2008

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Senator Shan Tsutsui
Vice Chair, Ways and Means Committee

From: Sergeant Major Kathryn Arizo
Area VII Director
Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2605 Relating to the Armed Services

Senator Baker, my name is Sergeant Major Kathryn Arizo, Past President of the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, Area VII Director with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and a member in good standing with the Hawaii National Guard.

I am writing to you on behalf of HB 2605 which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for members of the National Guard and Reserves. This bill sets the foundation to provide the State of Hawaii the best possibility to recruit and retain our Citizen-Soldiers. It means we are going to continue to have a Guard that is going to be able to respond to emergencies, help local governments and help the people of this state in ways we cannot even begin to anticipate.

I can tell you from personal experience that Guard service is difficult and demanding duty, especially when we are trying to balance our finances, our jobs and our families.

Our Enlisted Membership knows from experience how vitally important it is to Hawaii that we maintain an effective National Guard. In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have a balanced force of Guardsmen throughout our state with National Guard being present on almost every island. With this presence we have seen that you can count on the Guard to respond quickly and effectively across a wide range of natural or man-made disasters, with Soldiers and Airmen trained and equipped to deal with any emergency that may threaten the citizens of Hawaii and our guests.

We are one of a hand full of states that **does not have** some sort of motor vehicle incentive program for members of the National Guard. With nearly 90% of the Hawaii Army National Guard having been deployed overseas we must send the message that we were thinking about them and their families. This bill is a clear message to them that we care about them and we recognize their sacrifice to our state and our nation. The members of the Hawaii National Guard have been waiting for this motor vehicle exemption for over 20 years. As stated above, we are

one of the last states to a provide motor vehicle incentive program for our Soldiers and Airmen. I urge you to support this bill on behalf of our Citizen-Soldiers.

I thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defends it and those Citizen-Soldiers that have returned from, are preparing to deploy to and are currently in harms way overseas.

Respectfully,

Sergeant Major Kathryn Arizo
Area VII Director
Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association

Hawaii National Guard Association
360 Mamala Bay Drive
Hickam AFB 96853
Peter.ching@hihick.ang.af.mil

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Ways and Means on
Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Conference Room 211
10:15 am

**RE: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2605- Vehicle Tax & Registration
Exemption for Active and Reserve Military**

Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2605, which will give guardsmen and reservists an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees.

My name is Lieutenant Colonel Peter Ching and I am the president of the Hawaii National Guard Association. I represent the officers and enlisted men and women in the Hawaii Air and Army National Guard, which boasts over 5,000 members.

We all know that the cost of living and the living wage in Hawaii is disproportionately high in comparison to the average income. For most families, any financial help is greatly appreciated, and in the case of the guardsmen, who make personal sacrifices on behalf of the state, the financial help would also honor their commitment and recognize their efforts.

This exemption is long overdue. In fact, we are one of a handful of states which do not have any sort of vehicle tax or licensing exemption in the nation. On the eve of another deployment just 2 and ½ short years after returning from Iraq, I ask for your support today in the hopes of finally allowing guardsmen and reservists a chance to enjoy this privilege.

As beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated service, the people of this State bear a special responsibility toward United States military forces, and I hope that you choose to honor that responsibility today.

**HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495
March 31, 2008**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

HOUSE HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2008
TIME: 10:15 am
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

From: CMSgt Ethan Toyama
President of the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association

Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB2605

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

My name is Chief Master Sergeant Ethan Toyama, President of the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association. I am providing testimony in strong support of HB2605, which will provide an exemption of vehicle taxes and registration fees for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

This bill will help balance the out of pocket cost to guardsmen and it is a key to improving recruitment and retention in the Guard. The financial help will also show that the state recognizes the commitment of the guardsmen and reservists to our State, its citizens, and our nation.

Our guardsmen and reservists have made many sacrifices to support us during times of need, and I believe we should honor them and take care of them to ensure that the State of Hawaii is prepared and ready to deal with any emergency that could come upon us.

I thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well being of our State and the servicemen that defend it.

testimony

From: Donna Degele [donna@hawaiiplaningmill.com]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 3:59 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony In Support of HB 2605 Relating to the Armed Services

TO:

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2008
TIME: 10:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2605 HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defend it.

v/r

//SIGNED//

Donna N. Degele

PO Box 6228

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Telephone: (808) 960-7971

This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of the message is not the intended recipient or an authorized representative of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, notify the sender immediately by return email and delete the message and any attachments from your system.

testimony

From: stevecid1@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 4:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony on House Bill 2605 HD1 Tuesday Apr 1, 2008 10:15 a.m. Conference Rm 211 State Capitol

NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

March 28, 2008

To: Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Ways And Means Committee
Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Ways And Means Committee

From: Senior Master Sergeant Stephen V. Cid
203rd Air Refueling Squadron

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2605 RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES

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Stephen V. Cid, SMSgt, HIANG
203RD Air Refueling Squadron
Hickam Air Force Base, HI 96853

Planning your summer road trip? Check out [AOL Travel Guides](#).

testimony

From: Dinneen Michael TSgt HQ 154 WG/HC [michael.dinneen@hick.af.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 5:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS - April 1, 2008 at 10:15 (HB 2605)

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means,

I have been a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard since 1994. I have been on five deployments in that time, three to the Persian Gulf. I am also a Vietnam Era Veteran of the US Army. If I were an active duty member of any the US Armed Services, I would not be required to pay these fees, but as a member of the Hawaii Guard I am required to pay these taxes and fees. Why is our own militia not treated the same as those that are here for a short tour of duty? I feel that the citizen soldier is in a unique situation and should be afforded as many benefits as possible that active duty military receive, and this bill is a small step in that direction. Please pass this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

//SIGNED//

TSGT Michael W. Dinneen
Hawaii Air National Guard
154 WG/HC NCOIC
DSN (315) 448.7275