

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

March 11, 2008

To: The Chair, Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee and Vice Chair, Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee

From: Sergeant Major Kathryn Arizo
Member of the Hawaii Army National Guard
Past President, Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association
Director Area VII, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2447 RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

Chairwoman and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2447 related to increase the uniform maintenance allowance from \$1.50 to \$10 per day. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss this important benefit as it relates to our State Guardsmen.

My name is Sergeant Major Kathryn Arizo; I am the Past President of the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association and a member in good standing with the Hawaii National Guard. 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 family and in addition to this we must maintain our uniforms on our own finances.

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.

SB 2447 to increase the uniform maintenance allowance is long overdue. I enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1986 and the uniform allowance was \$1.50 per day. That was 22 years ago and the rate has not changed, today it cost me \$18.54 to clean and service one military uniform, a substantial difference. This bill will help to meet the real life requirements for our guardsmen and absorb some of the direct personnel cost to us and our families. Passing this bill will also tell us that the State of Hawaii appreciates and supports our Soldiers and Airmen. As our troops

return from active duty and return to civilian life I believe we should honor them and take care of them to ensure the State of Hawaii is prepared and ready to deal with any emergency that could come upon us.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I thank you for your commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State and the guardsmen that defends it.

Sergeant Major Kathryn Arizo
Hawaii National Guard

**HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495
March 12, 2008**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

HOUSE HEARING

DATE: Thursday March 13, 2008
TIME: 8:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB2447

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 SB2447, which will increase the uniform maintenance allowance from \$1.50 to \$10 a day.

The present cost of clothing maintenance far exceeds the current allowance and an increase is long overdue. The rate has not changed for more than 35 years, yet the cost to clean and service military uniforms has increased substantially. This bill will help balance out the out of pocket cost to guardsmen and it is a key to improving recruitment and retention in the Guard.

Our guardsmen have made many sacrifices to support our state 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 guardsmen that defend it.



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008
8:30 A.M. IN ROOM 309**

Re: SB 2447 RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, 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 Senate Bill 2447, relating to the National Guard.

This measure provides for increasing the uniform maintenance allowance for enlisted members of the Hawaii Army and Air National Guards to \$10 per, not to exceed \$150 per year.

This bill recognizes the cost increases incurred by enlisted members in properly maintaining their uniforms in meeting the requirements established by the National Guard.

In light of the above, the MAC recommends approval of SB2447 as written.