

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3160
A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
ADJUTANT GENERAL
January 28, 2008

Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 3160. This bill makes an appropriation for the National Museum of the United States Army.

The department supports the intent of this measure as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request. Additionally, we recommend that the number of veterans considered be limited to Army veterans and not all military veterans in the State.

Chair Inouye, this concludes my testimony. Are there any questions?



**The Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii**
Since 1850

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008
1:15 P.M. IN ROOM 229

Re: SB 3160 RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR
THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Chair Inouye, 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 Senate Bill 3160, Making an Appropriation for the National Museum for the US Army, which proposes to donate funds equivalent to \$1 for every US military veteran residing in Hawaii in support of the National Museum of the US Army. This museum is scheduled to open in the year 2013.

As stated in the testimony, Hawaii has a proud record in supporting the US during World War I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and now the global war against terrorism. Thousands of Hawaii residents and soldiers stationed in Hawaii participated in these wars. This is to include members in the Hawaii Army and Air National Guards.

The bill cites the heroic deeds of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. We must also remember that the Hawaii Army National Guard was among the units forming the 25th Infantry Division on Schofield Barracks that ventured into combat during World War II, served in Japan during the Occupation of Japan following World War II, deployed to Vietnam during the Vietnam War, and served multiple deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. The units patch depicts a taro leaf, symbolic of its birth in Hawaii. Moreover, Hawaii's 9th Regimental Combat Team was among the first US troops to land in South Korea at the start of the Korean War.

Hawaii's estimated 115,000 military veterans who have served with the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are proud of their service to the United States.

In light of the above, the MAC strongly recommends approval of SB3241 as written.