

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 34
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW AVAILABLE
SURPLUS HELICOPTERS TO BE USED FOR MEDICAL EVACUATION
SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 24, 2009

Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on House Resolution 34.

The State Department of Defense does not have any surplus helicopters. The Hawaii Army National Guard is not equipped with their authorized number of helicopters. Additionally, each aircraft must execute an annual flying hour program based on pilot and crew training requirements, and are not placed into an idle status.

The State Department of Defense is committed to provide disaster and emergency response capabilities to our State, counties, and our communities. These services have been provided on numerous occasions in the past and will continue to be provided in the future.

Policies and procedures are in place to provide these services when necessary. This policy requires that the aircrews and support personnel be placed on State Active Duty (SAD) status to respond to a state mission. SAD provides the

aircrews and support personnel with pay entitlements, but more importantly, provides benefits in the event of injury or death. Also, Federal Military regulations require mandatory reimbursement for the use of military aircraft and equipment in support of state missions. Current fiscal year 2009 reimbursement rates are \$10,161.88 for a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and \$4,399.32 for a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Since policies and procedures are in place and mandatory reimbursement is required, we believe that this resolution is unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on this measure.