

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 896 SD1 HD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL SERVICE LAW

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

BY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 896 SD1 HD1. This bill is to affirm that the civil service exemption for the National Guard sponsored youth education program also applies to the National Guard sponsored adult education program.

We strongly support Senate Bill 896 SD1 HD1. Exemption from civil service is extremely necessary for the Department of Defense to effectively manage wage constraints imposed by the federal government's Master Cooperative Agreements (MCAs). Provision specified in the MCAs includes manning models based on the federal government's General Schedule (GS) salaries which are often higher than the State civil service salary ranges. The exemption will permit hiring individuals without regard to civil service salary limitations as the MCA salary ranges may conflict with civil service limitations.

This exemption will enable the Department of Defense to fill positions necessary to conduct youth and adult education programs without delay through normal recruitment civil service procedures. This will ensure continuity of all National Guard sponsored youth and adult education programs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.