



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
1:00 PM
Conference Room 229**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1213 RELATING TO CIVIL RELIEF FOR MILITARY RESERVE
COMPONENT PERSONNEL**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of Senate Bill No.1213, Relating to Civil Relief for Military Reserve Component Personnel.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the U.S. military and provides oversight for the State's multi-billion dollar defense industry.

The measure proposes to extend foreclosure for one year after redeployment from active duty for national guard and reservists.

The proposed action recognizes the unique hardships faced by national guard members and reservists being recalled to active service by the US military to augment the overburdened active duty force during the current global war against terrorism. Many guardsmen and reservists suffer severe financial hardships caused by their military pay being below that of their regular civilian jobs. This decrease in pay could result in the member not being able to meet his or her financial obligations incurred as a civilian.

It is stressed that these guardsmen and reservists have no option but to comply with competent orders directing them to active military service.

Failure to provide civil relief will result in national guard members and reservists, and their families, to suffer the consequences of foreclosure actions.

In light of the unique circumstances faced by national guard and reserve members, the MAC recommends passage of SB 1213.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.