

SB 2135

Measure Title:
Relating To The Hawaii National Guard

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2135
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL

February 2, 2010

Chair Espero, Chair Sakamoto, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Adjutant General, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony on Senate Bill 2135.

This proposed bill establishes a permanent full-time school liaison position with an appropriation out of the general revenues for fiscal year 2010-1011. The school liaison position facilitates interaction between the Hawaii National Guard and the Department of Education.

We support the intent of Senate Bill 2135 so long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

Thank you for letting me submit this written testimony.

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND EDUCATION AND HOUSING
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2135

February 2, 2010

RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

Senate Bill No. 2135 establishes within the Department of Defense the position of school liaison which shall be a permanent, full-time position exempt from Chapter 76. The school liaison shall facilitate interaction between the Hawaii National Guard community and the Department of Education.

We oppose this bill. While we support the Hawaii National Guard and appreciate the valuable contributions they make to the State, we are not able to determine the purpose and benefit this position will provide. The proposed amendment will limit the flexibility of the Executive Branch to review program position and funding requirements and allocate resources to programs based on statewide priorities within available resources. The proposed amendment also would not provide any flexibility to account for any adverse fiscal conditions and will obligate future Legislatures to provide funding without regard to appropriateness.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and
Committee on Education and Housing

Tuesday, February 2, 2010
1:15 PM
Conference Room 229

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2135, RELATING TO HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

Chair Espero, Chair Sakamoto, 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 2291, Relating To Hawaii National Guard.

Since 1985, The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the US military and its civilian workforce and families and has provided oversight for the state's multi-billion dollar defense industry.

The measure proposes to establish the position of a school liaison officer within the Hawaii National Guard and provides for and appropriates funds.

The Chamber, through its Military Affairs Council (MAC), is a member on the Board of Directors for the Joint Venture Education Forum, which is a formal partnership between Hawaii's military commands and the Department of Education. This forum was established to provide oversight for the Hawaii public schools that are impacted by military children and help to improve the quality of schooling received by military children.

The education of military children is a top quality of life issue that is addressed by the US Congress, US Department of Defense, and military commanders from the Pentagon to every command in Hawaii. For this reason, every military branch established positions for a School Liaison Officer (SLO) to ensure that the schooling needs of military children are being properly addressed at military bases in the US. The SLO discusses schooling opportunities with military families arriving in Hawaii and facilitates their transition into Hawaii's schools. The SLOs are members of the JVEF and serve as the advocates for military children.

The establishment of a full-time SLO position at the Hawaii National Guard will provide its families with services that are currently being provided to families of active duty military personnel. This is especially critical during periods of extended family separations caused by deployments to combat areas for extended periods of time.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the proposed measure be approved for further review and adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.